Black

Jack

Osamu

Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 3

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VERTICAL.

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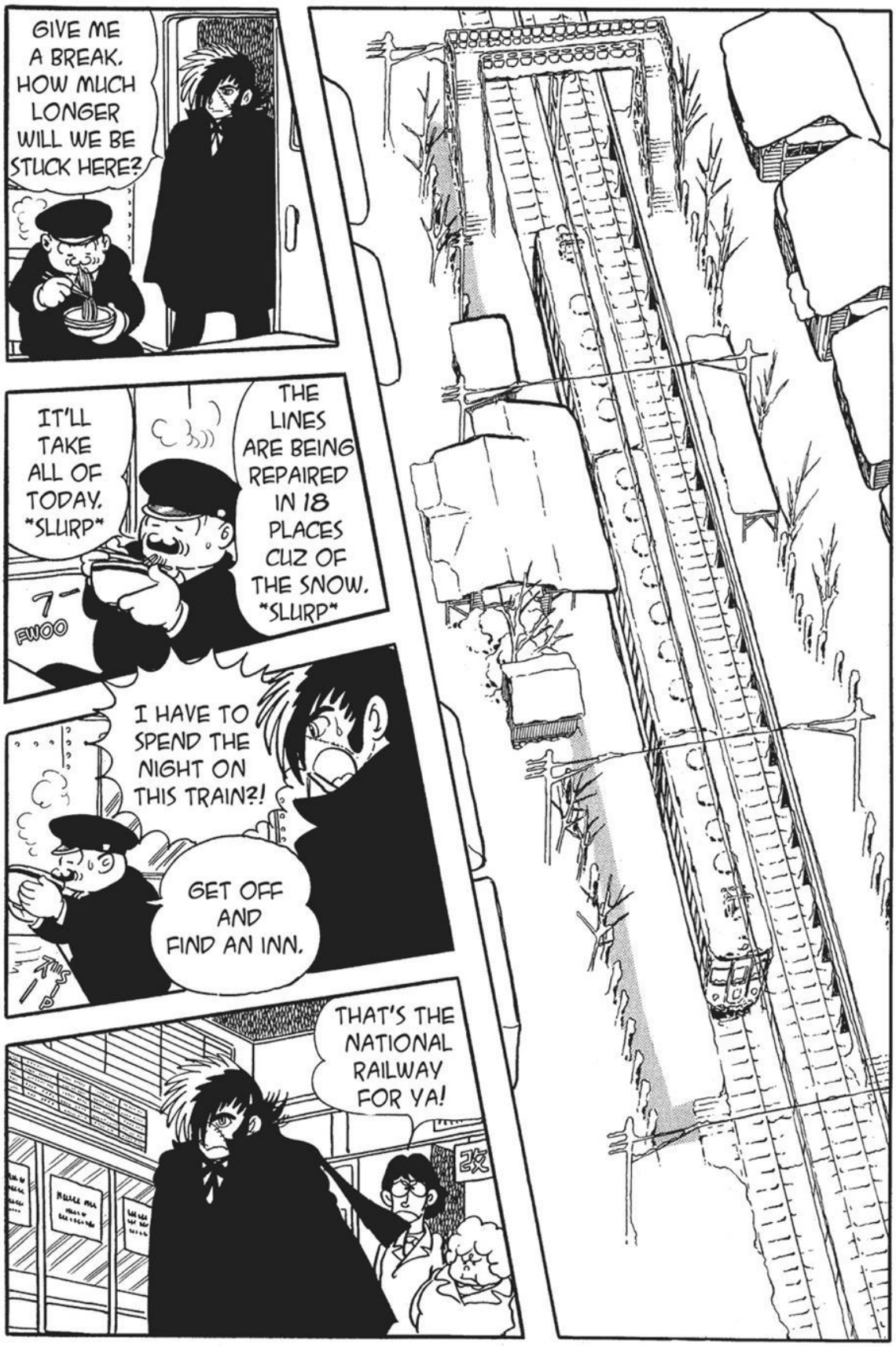
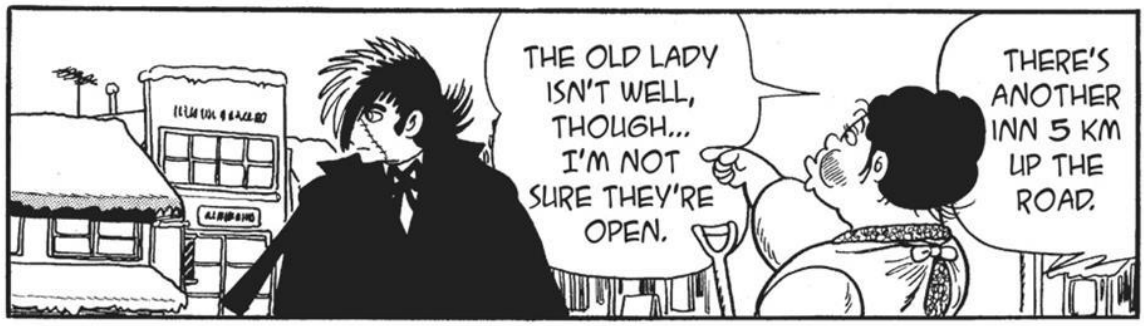
DISOWNED SON

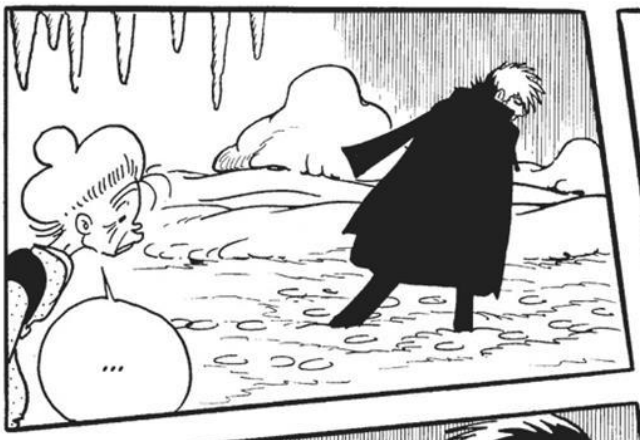

GIVE ME A BREAK. HOW MUCH LONGER WILL WE BE STUCK HERE?
IT'LL TAKE ALL OF TODAY. "SLURP"
THE LINES ARE BEING REPAIRED IN 18 PLACES CUZ OF THE SNOW. "SLURP"
FWOO
I HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT ON THIS TRAIN?!
GET OFF AND FIND AN INN.
THAT'S THE NATIONAL RAILWAY FOR YA!
改

SORRY, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID.
民宿

TOO MANY GUESTS FROM THE TRAIN...
民宿
青木屋

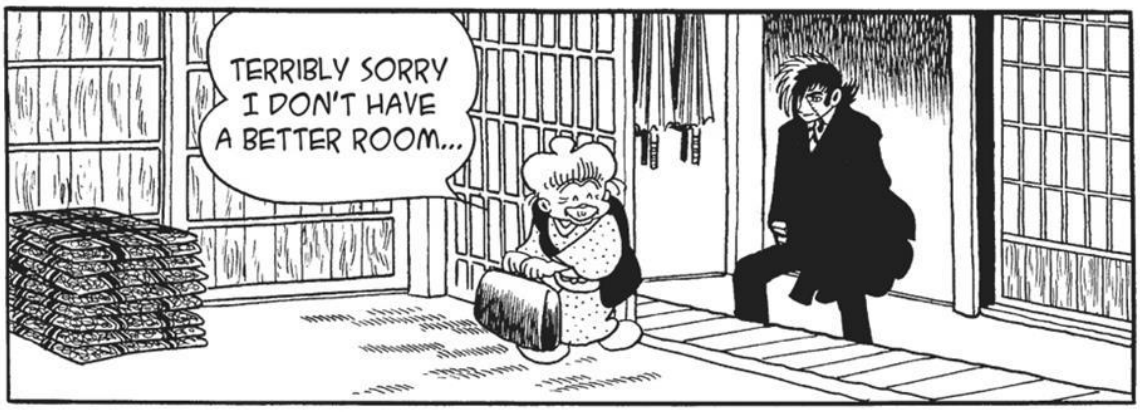

THE OLD LADY ISN'T WELL, THOUGH... I'M NOT SURE THEY'RE OPEN.
THERE'S ANOTHER INN 5 KM UP THE ROAD.

...

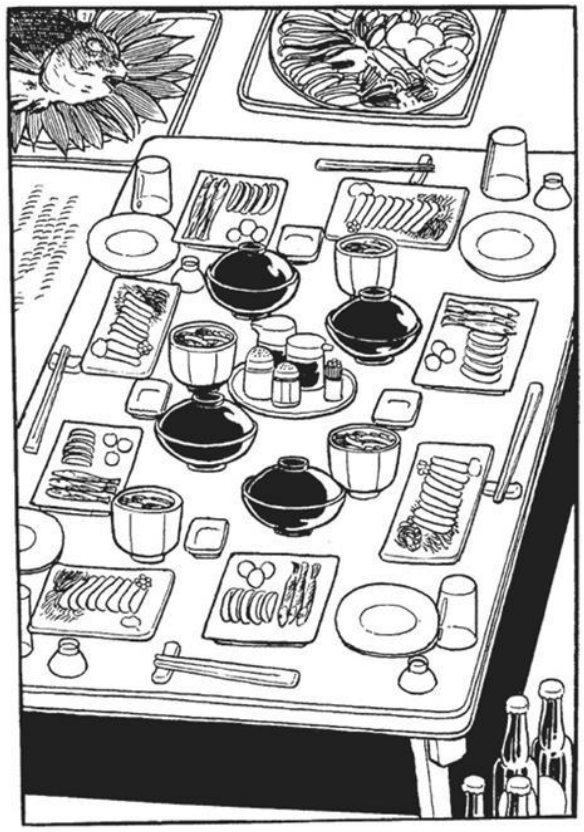

...

OH, MY! I DO 'PRECIATE YOUR COMING ALL THIS WAY, BUT WE'RE CLOSED TONIGHT...
MY THREE SONS ARE COMING TO STAY, YOU SEE.

MISTER, IT WON'T BE FANCY, BUT IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY.

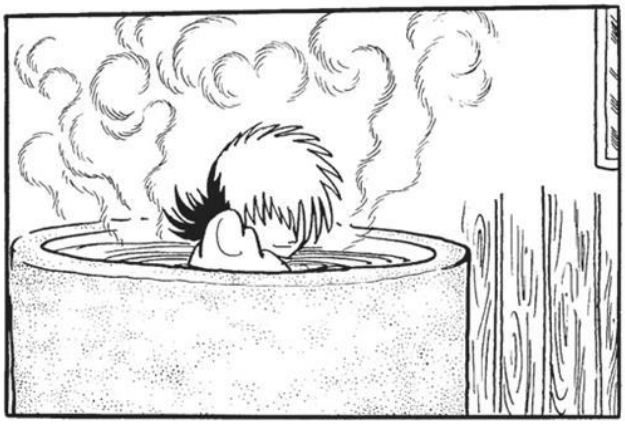

TERRIBLY SORRY I DON'T HAVE A BETTER ROOM...

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN HOME IN 13 YEARS, SEE ?
UHHM... THIS IS FOR MY SONS. THREE DAYS I'VE BEEN COOKIN' FOR THEIR VISIT!

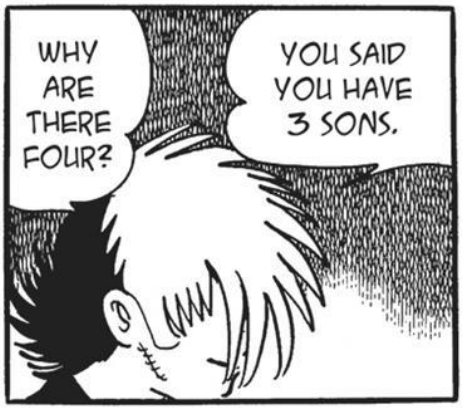


THE BATH'S ALL READY. GO RIGHT AHEAD.

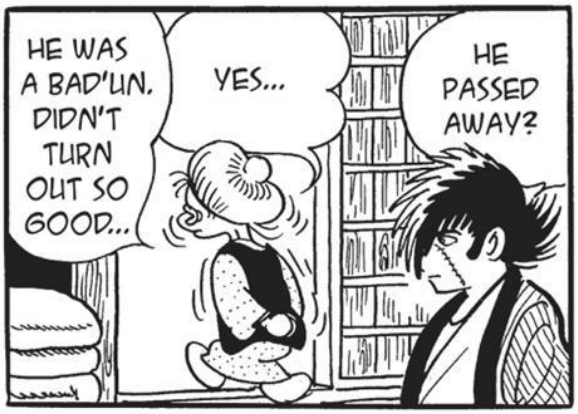
I WROTE TO THEM THAT I'D LIKE US ALL IN ONE PLACE.
TODAY'S MY SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY...



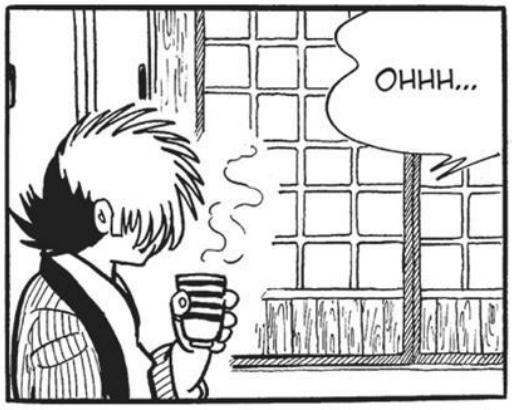
THEY'RE AWFUL BUSY, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN MORE'N A DECADE.
ONE SON LIVES IN TOKYO, ONE IN OSAKA, AND ONE IN FUKUOKA. THEY'VE ALL DONE QUITE WELL FOR THEMSELVES.
AHH, YES. THOSE BE THE DESKS THEY USED AS CHILDREN. I'VE HELD ON TO THEM.
TONIGHT I SEE THEM AGAIN. IMAGINE WHAT A STATE I'M IN, SIR.
WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN THEY WERE LITTLE.
WHENEVER I MISS THEM, I TOUCH THE WOOD AN' I RECALL...

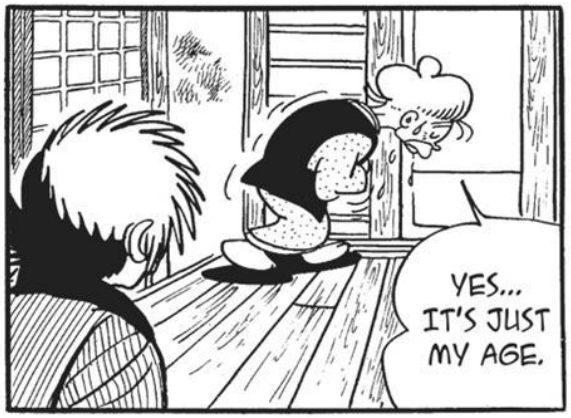

WHY ARE THERE FOUR?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE 3 SONS.

ER...

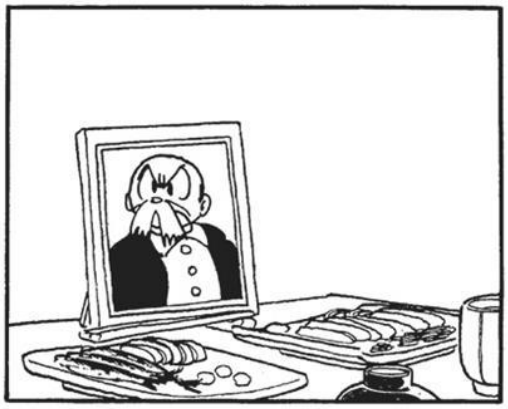
I SEE FOUR DESKS.

HE WAS A BAD'UN. DIDN'T TURN OUT SO GOOD...
YES...
HE PASSED AWAY?

ONE DIED.

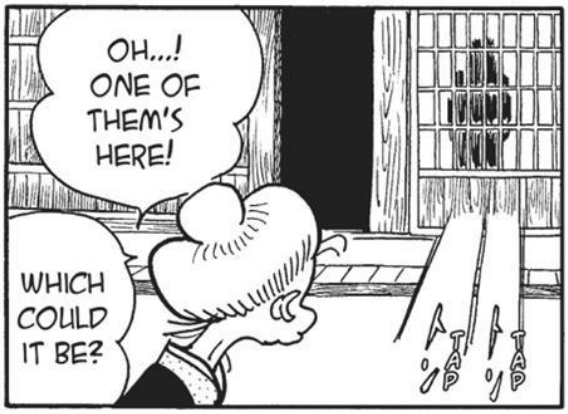

OHHH...

MY SONS WILL BE ARRIVING SOON. SORRY I CAN'T SERVE YOU BETTER.

YES... IT'S JUST MY AGE.

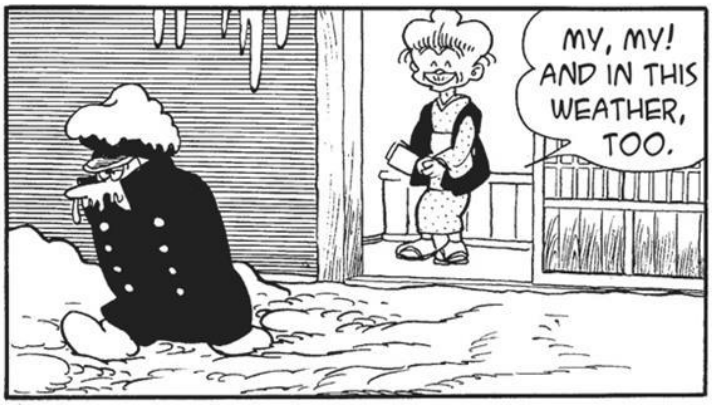
YOU ALL RIGHT, MA'AM?



PA, THE 3 BOYS ARE COMING TO SEE YOU. AREN'T WE GLAD!

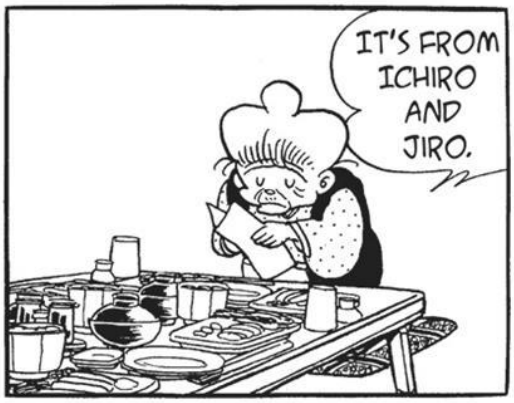

OH...! ONE OF THEM'S HERE!
WHICH COULD IT BE?
TAP
TAP

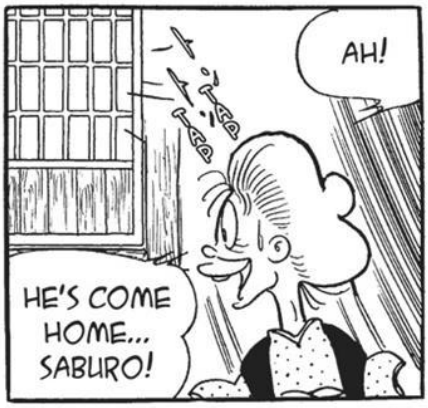
ALL THREE HAVE WIVES AND EVEN THEIR OWN KIDS!
YOU DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE THEM MAKE IT IN THE WORLD.
SUCH GOOD BOYS...


MY, MY! AND IN THIS WEATHER, TOO.

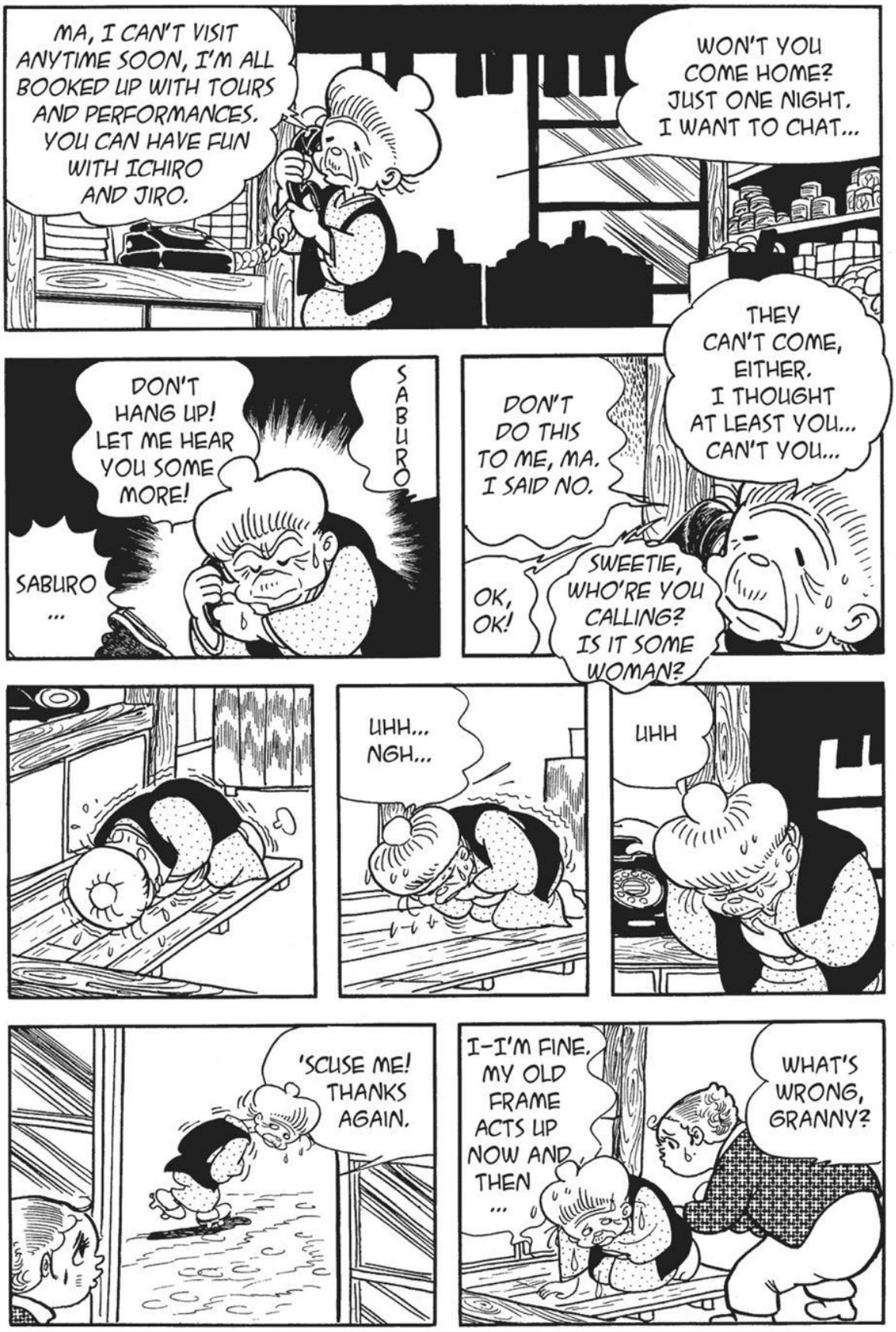
TWO TELE-GRAMS FOR YOU.

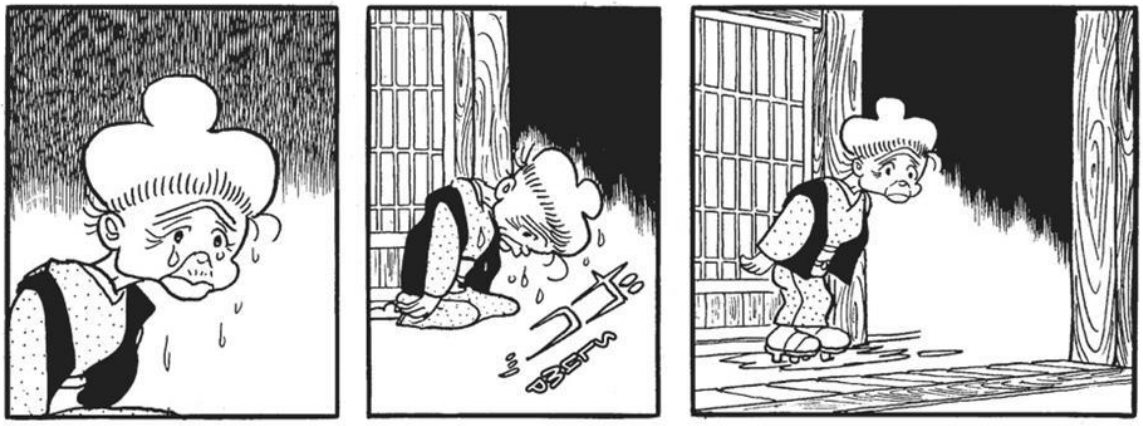
BIRTHDAY WISHES?

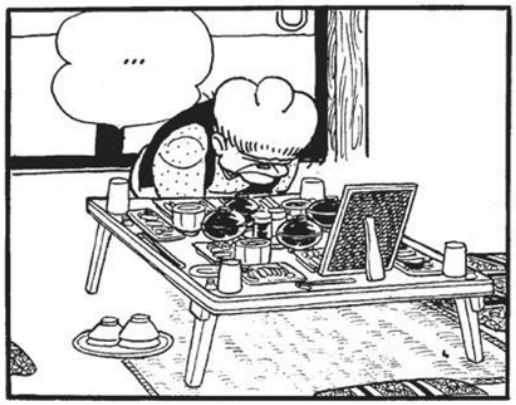




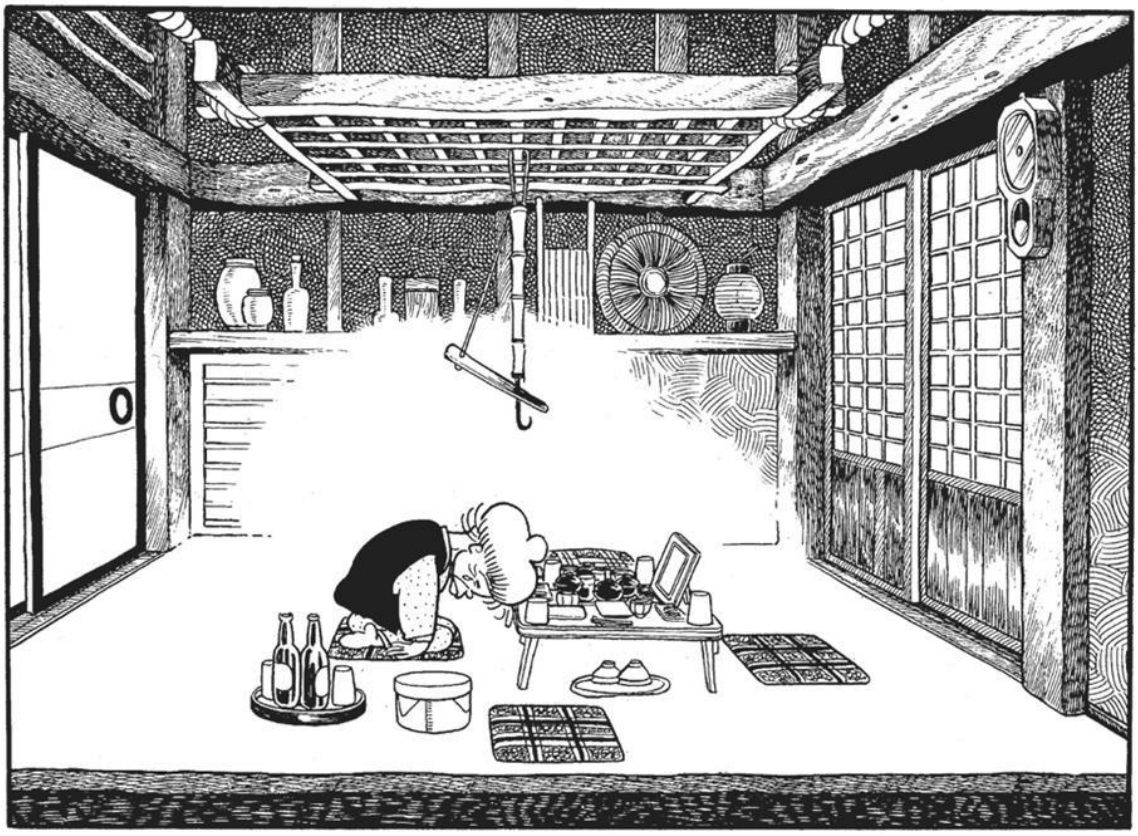
NOTE: ICHIRO, JIRO, AND SABURO MEAN FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD MALE RESPECTIVELY, A SIMPLE NAMING SCHEME THAT WAS COMMON IN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS. THE FOURTH SON WOULD BE SHIRO.


MA, I CAN'T VISIT ANYTIME SOON, I'M ALL BOOKED UP WITH TOURS AND PERFORMANCES. YOU CAN HAVE FUN WITH ICHIRO AND JIRO.
WON'T YOU COME HOME? JUST ONE NIGHT. I WANT TO CHAT...
DON'T HANG UP! LET ME HEAR YOU SOME MORE!
SABURO
SABURO ...
DON'T DO THIS TO ME, MA. I SAID NO.
THEY CAN'T COME, EITHER. I THOUGHT AT LEAST YOU... CAN'T YOU...
OK, OK!
SWEETIE, WHO'RE YOU CALLING? IS IT SOME WOMAN?
UHH... NGH...
UHH
'SCUSE ME! THANKS AGAIN.
I-I'M FINE. MY OLD FRAME ACTS UP NOW AND THEN ...
WHAT'S WRONG, GRANNY?

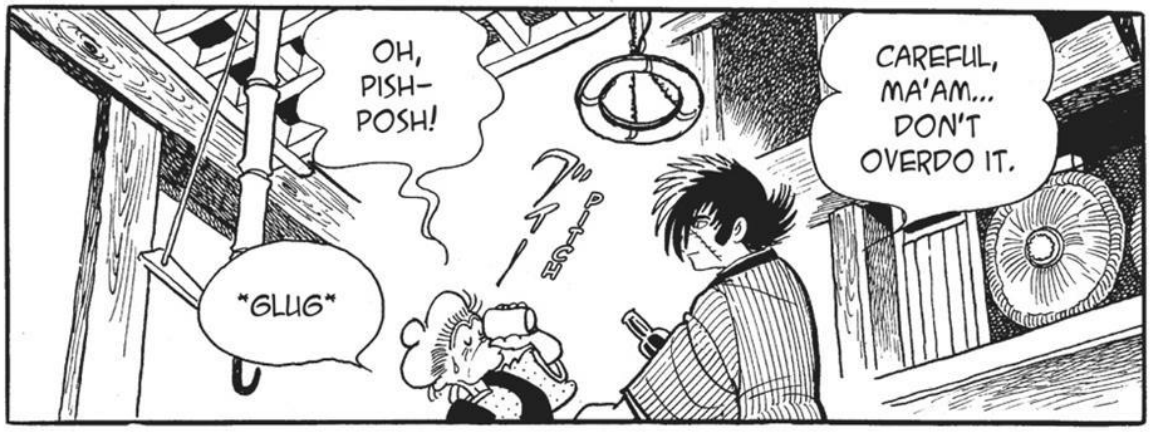



...

PA... SABURO CAN'T COME EITHER.



THEY'RE AWFUL BUSY... NOTHING THEY CAN DO.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
AREN'T YOUR SONS HERE YET?
UM ...
THEY ALL COULDN'T MAKE IT...
LESS SO EVERY YEAR... NOW THEY DON'T CARE!
THEY WERE ALL SUCH CARING BOYS...
ARE YOU CRYING?
MY FATHER GOT RE-MARRIED AND LIVES ABROAD.
MY MOTHER DIED WHEN I WAS A KID.
HOW ARE YOUR FOLKS DOING, SIR?
WELL GLADLY.
I BOUGHT ALL THIS BEER FOR MY SONS— WOULD YOU MIND HAVING SOME?
...


OH, PISH-POSH!
CAREFUL, MA'AM... DON'T OVERDO IT.
"GLUG"
PITCH

THAT WAS A CAR.

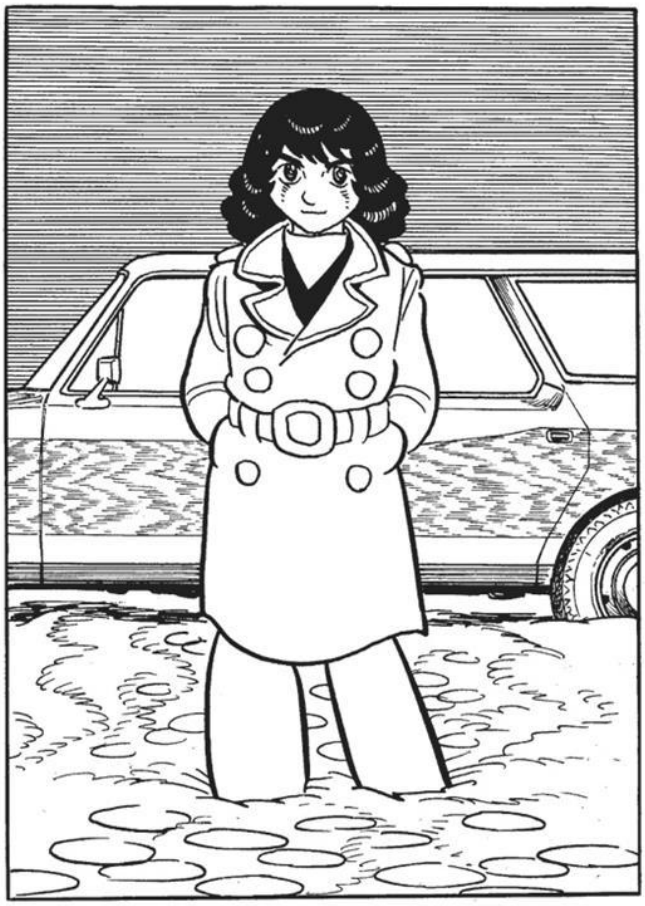
THE REAPER CAN COME FOR ALL I CARE. "HIC"
I DON'T CARE WHO IT ISH!

CAN'T BE! ALL THREE OF 'EM SAID THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT.
MAYBE IT'S ONE OF YOUR SONS.
HIC

I'VE NO ROOMS TONIGHT.
WHO IS IT SO LATE ?

WHO IS IT ?

SHIRO !!



YOU'RE NO LONGER ONE OF US. WHY'RE YOU HERE ?
DON'T CALL ME THAT!

MOTHER
SHIRO ...

...

'TWAS YOUR PA'S DYING WISH...
NO!
GO AWAY!

I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN. PLEASE, JUST ONE NIGHT?
TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?! THE BIG SIX-OH!

WELL, FINE. COME IN...
WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH YOU?!
C'MON MA'AM, LET HIM IN.

I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.

HAPPY SIXTIETH, MA.

I'M DEAD TO THEM.
HA HA HA! THEY DISOWNED ME, SEVERED ALL TIES...
SHE TOLD ME HER FOURTH SON WAS DEAD.

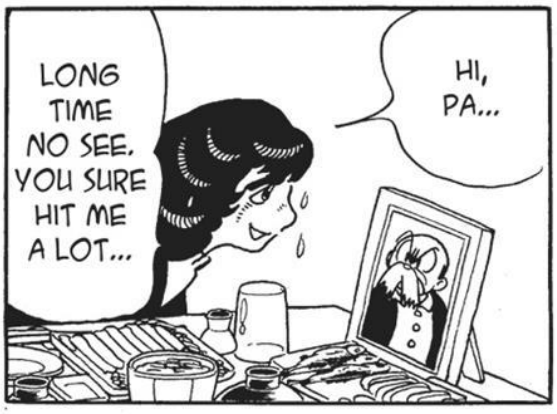
BORROW I DID. I WAS GONNA PAY UP AS AN ADULT.

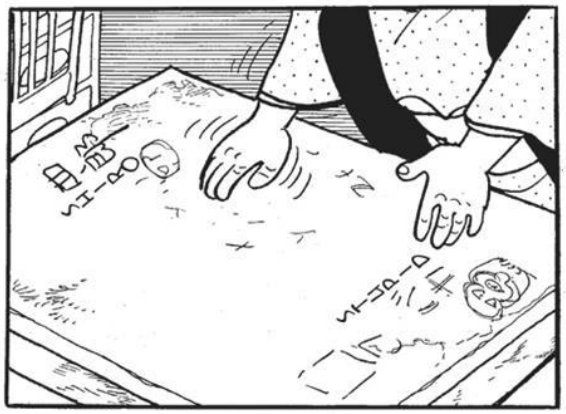
HE STOLE FROM US!

I GOT OUT OF HAND.
SEE...

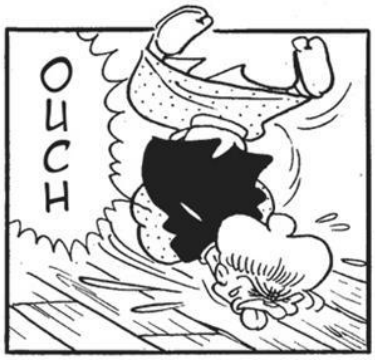
FOR A WHILE, I JUST...WENT BAD. I WAS REJECTED, THEN DISOWNED.
IN A POOR FARMER'S HOUSEHOLD, A FOURTH SON IS NOTHING BUT A MILLSTONE. MY BROTHERS PICKED ON ME, I'D NEVER INHERIT THE FARM. YOU JUST HAVE TO LEAVE.

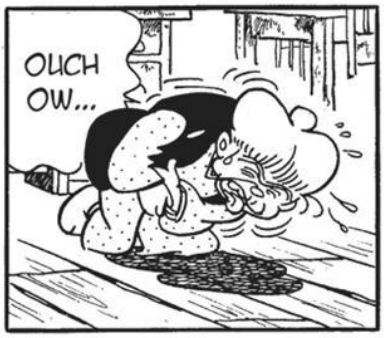
SOB *SOB*


LONG TIME NO SEE. YOU SURE HIT ME A LOT...
HI, PA...

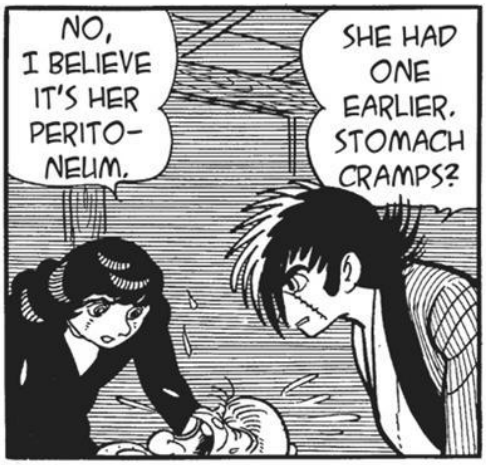


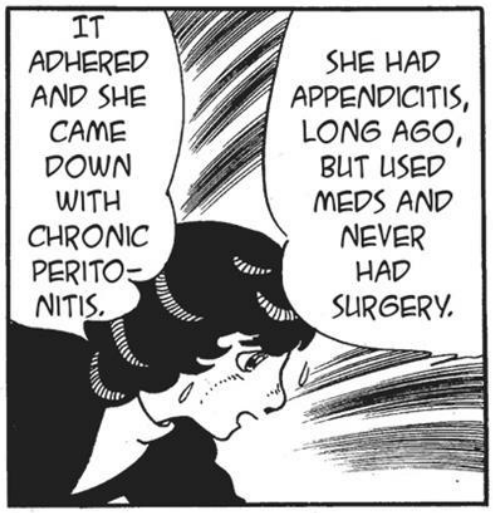
UHH


OUCH


OUCH
OW...

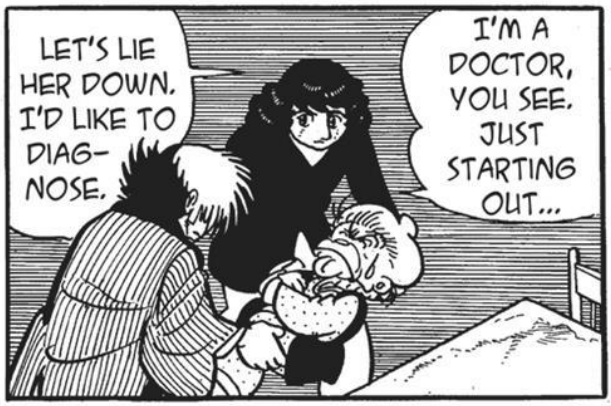
ACK


NO, I BELIEVE IT'S HER PERITO-NEUM.
SHE HAD ONE EARLIER. STOMACH CRAMPS?

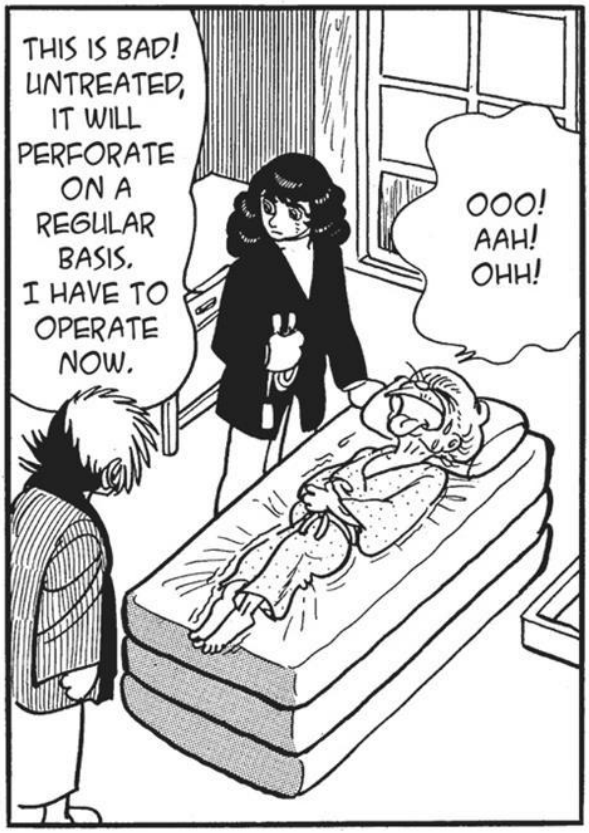

IT ADHERED AND SHE CAME DOWN WITH CHRONIC PERITO-NITIS.
SHE HAD APPENDICITIS, LONG AGO, BUT USED MEDS AND NEVER HAD SURGERY.

MA!! IS IT YOUR ATTACK AGAIN ?!

I BECAME A DOCTOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO CURE HER.
TRUTH IS ...


LET'S LIE HER DOWN. I'D LIKE TO DIAG-NOSE.
I'M A DOCTOR, YOU SEE. JUST STARTING OUT...

MY GEAR'S IN THE CAR.


THIS IS BAD! UNTREATED, IT WILL PERFORATE ON A REGULAR BASIS. I HAVE TO OPERATE NOW.
OOO! AAH! OHH!

FOR ONE THING, HER MCBURNEY IS A TEN!
YES IT IS!

THIS ISN'T APPEN-DICITIS.

IF IT'S APPEN-DICITIS, IT'D STILL HURT.
SEE, SHE'S FINE.

LAY HER ON HER LEFT.

OW OW OW ...
TENDERNESS HERE IS A SIGN OF APPENDICITIS !

STAY OUT OF THIS, PLEASE!
LOOKS LIKE A MOBILE CECUM. AN APPENDECTOMY WON'T HELP.

IN A WAY. BUT I WENT BAD—WORSE THAN YOU EVER DID.
UM, ARE YOU... A DOCTOR?

ヌッ!

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I OPERATE FOR FREE.

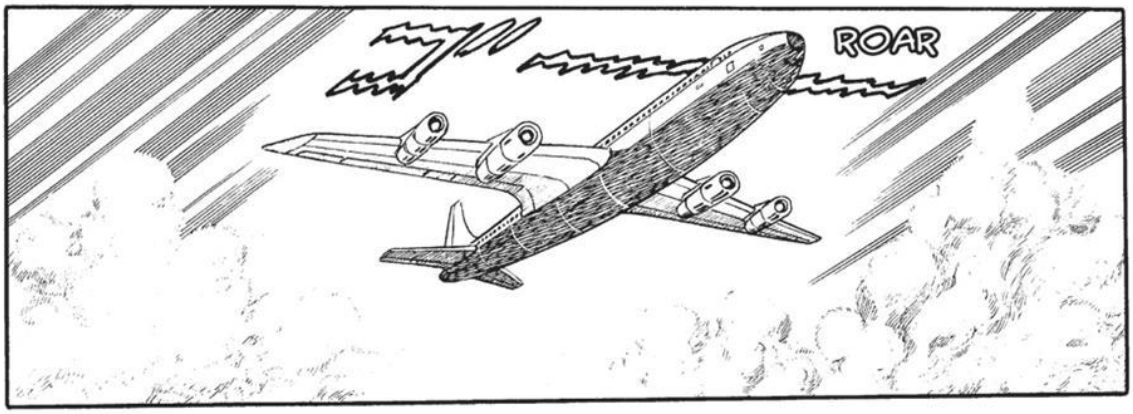
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME. JUST WATCH ME DO THIS.

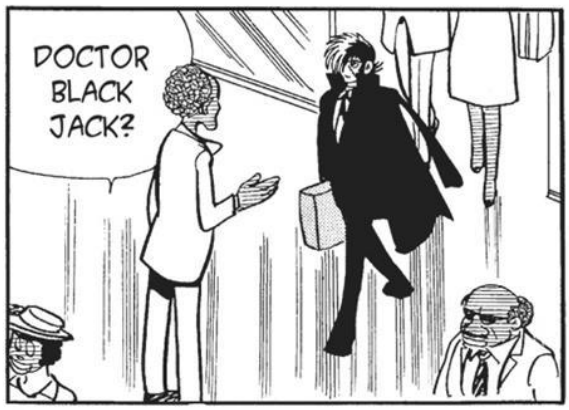
DON'T LOSE OUT.
WHAT ?

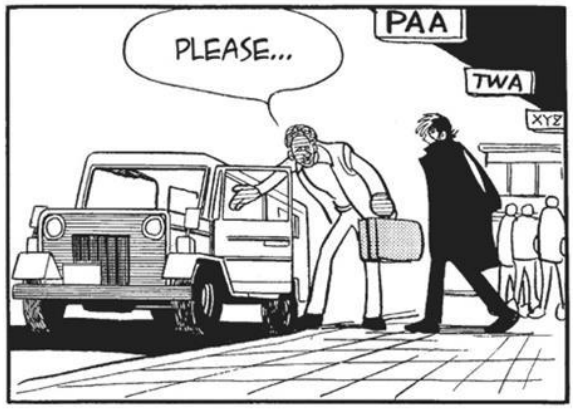
AND THERE'S NO PUS.
LOOK, HER APPENDIX IS FINE
A HUNDRED MORE SURGERIES AND YOU'RE SET...
IT'S HARD TO TELL APART THE TWO.
...
APPENDICES, FOURTH SONS, THEY AREN'T WHAT YOU CUT OFF ON A WHIM.
WE OUGHT TO TAKE IT OUT ANYWAY.
WHY NOT ?
WHY CUT IT OFF ?

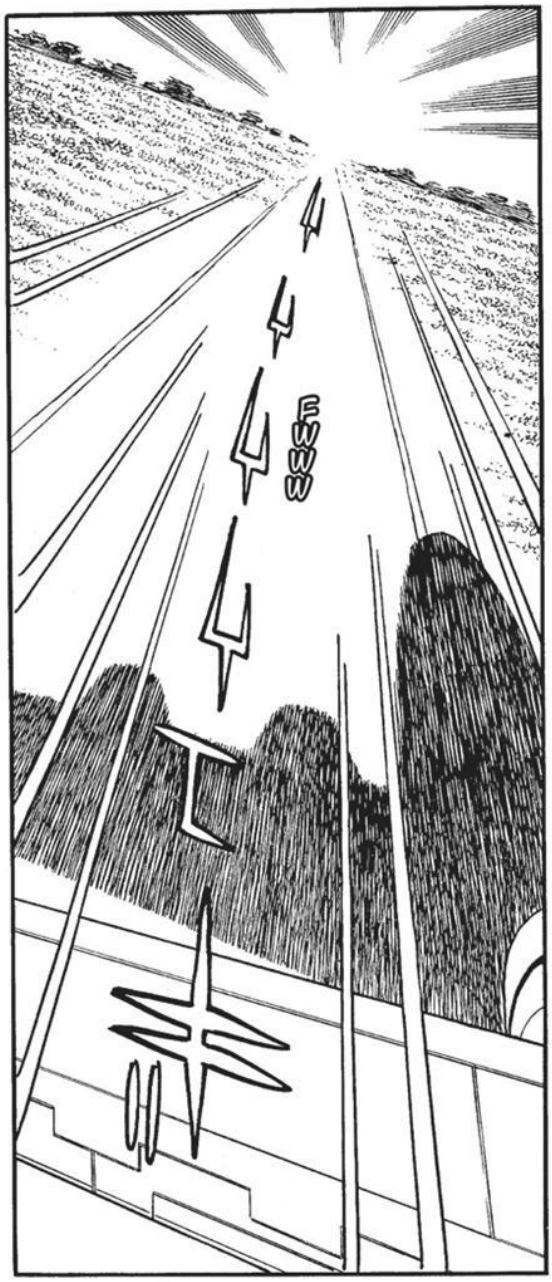
AM I... GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, MA?
THAT DOCTOR SAID I SHOULD OPEN A CLINIC RIGHT HERE.
OOPS... HE'S GONE.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK!
THANK YOU...!
I WOULDN'T MAKE A RED CENT OVERSTAYING MY WELCOME.

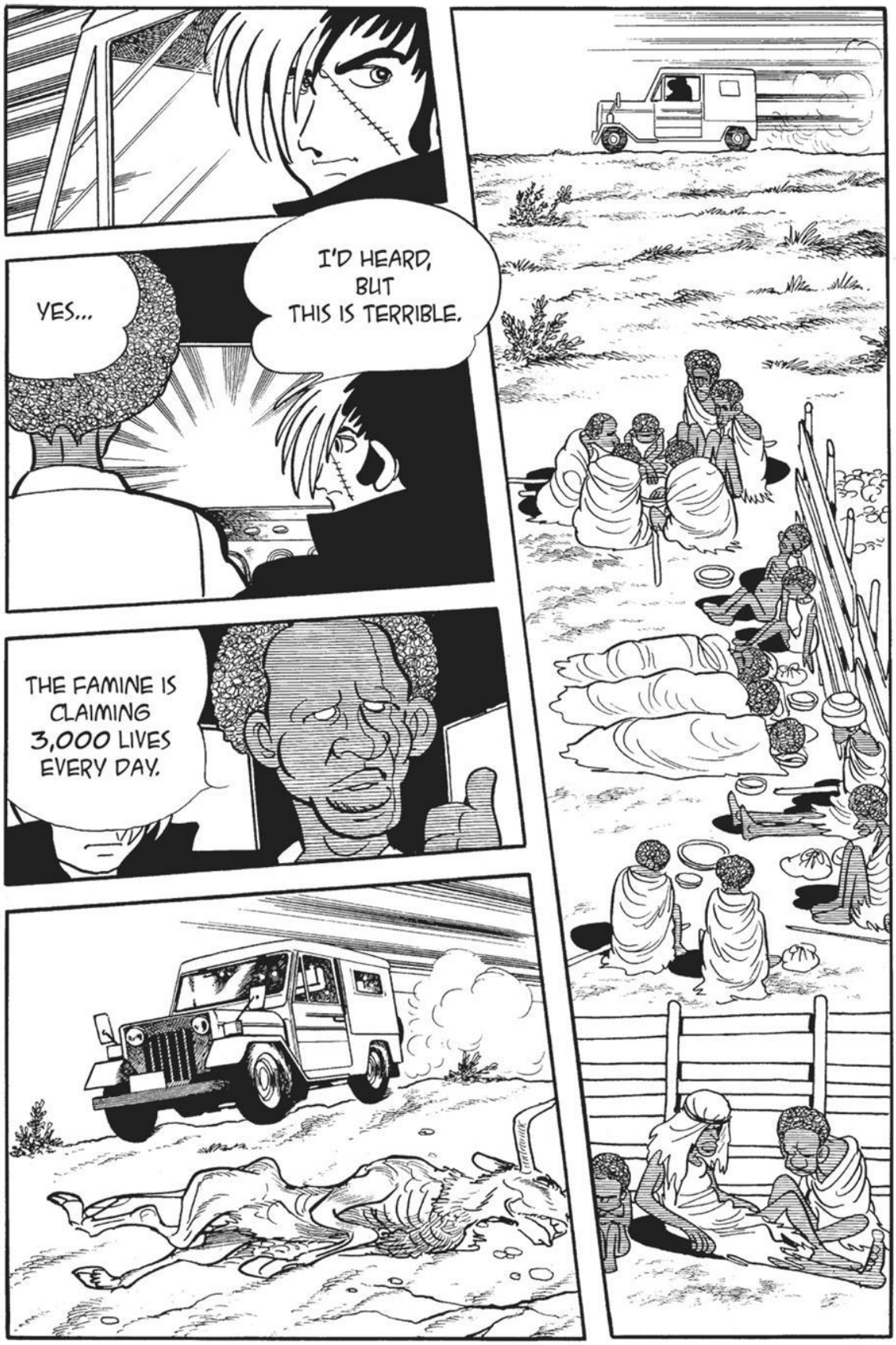
SHRINKING

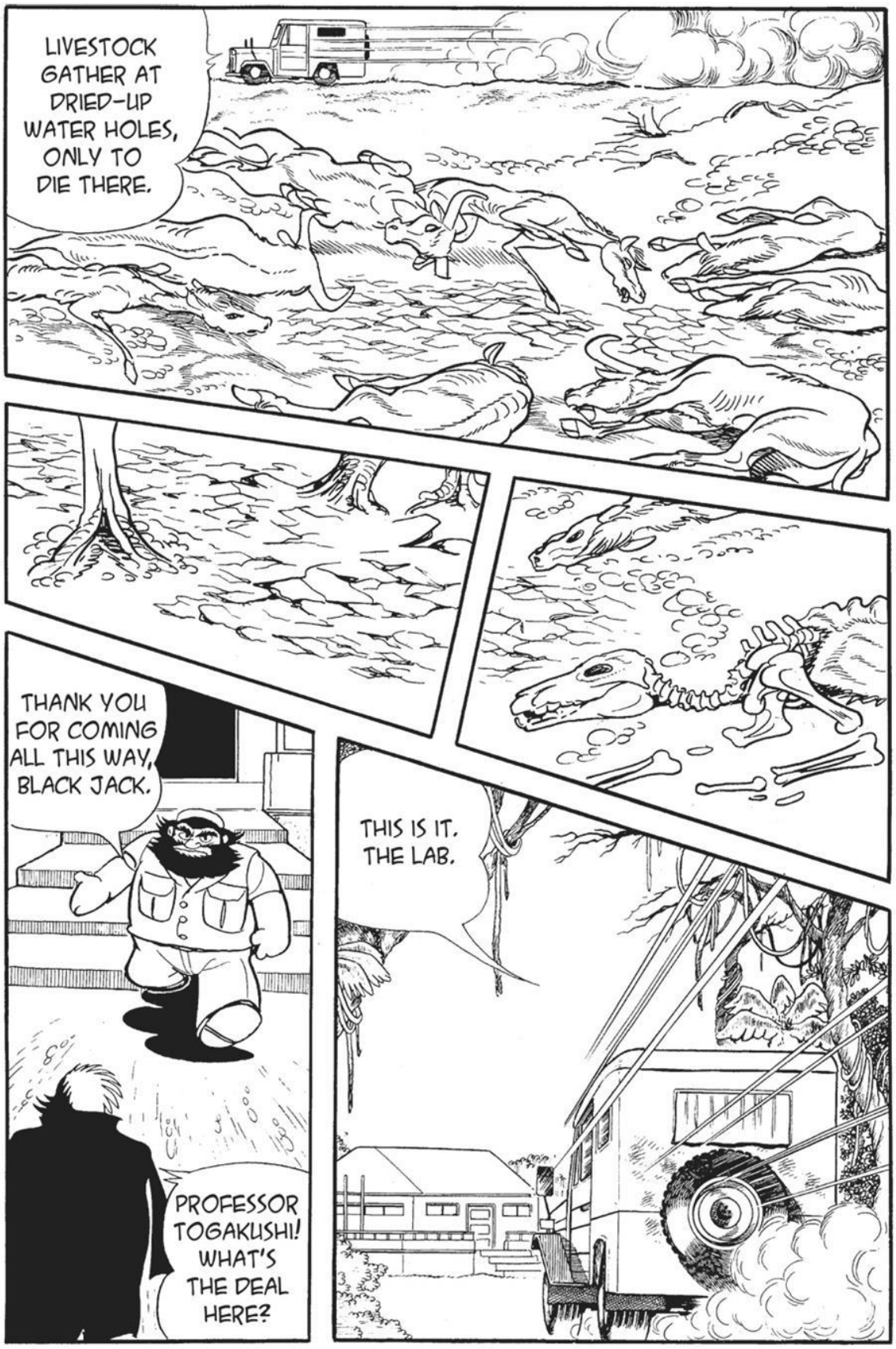

ROAR


DOCTOR BLACK JACK?


PLEASE...
PAA
TWA
XYZ

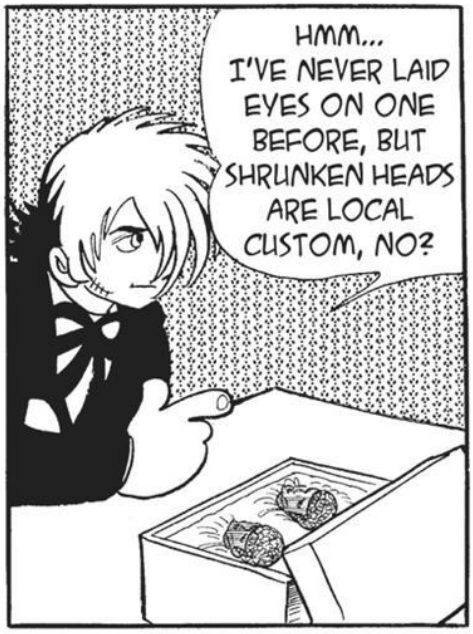

EWWW

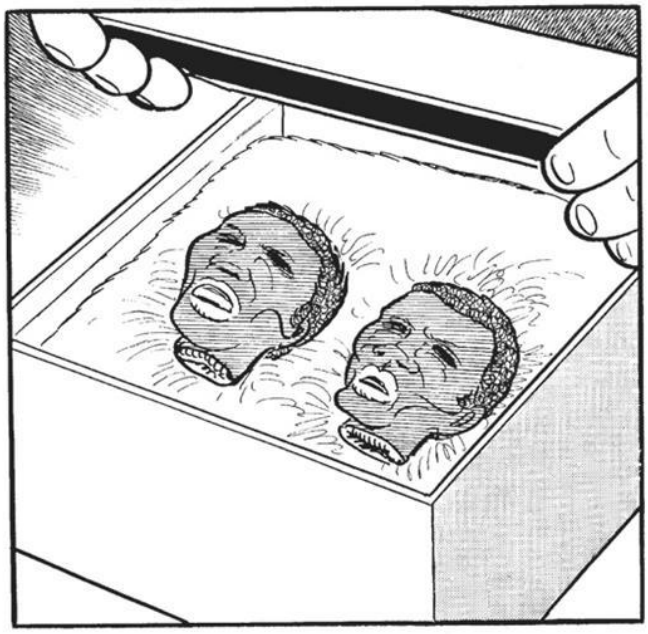

I'D HEARD, BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE.
YES...
THE FAMINE IS CLAIMING 3,000 LIVES EVERY DAY.


LIVESTOCK GATHER AT DRIED-UP WATER HOLES, ONLY TO DIE THERE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY, BLACK JACK.
PROFESSOR TOGAKUSHI! WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
THIS IS IT. THE LAB.

CHECK THIS OUT.

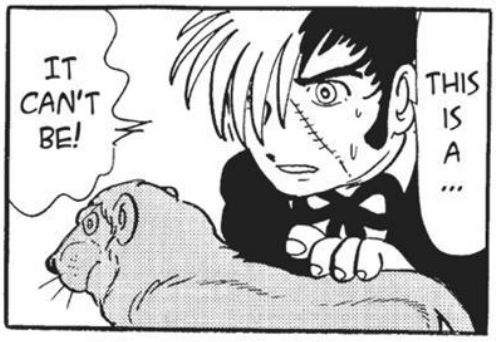
NO... PLEASE GO AHEAD AND TELL ME NOW! YOUR LETTER SUGGESTED IT'S PRETTY SERIOUS.
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT. BUT FIRST, HAVE A LITTLE REST. TEA?


HMM... I'VE NEVER LAID EYES ON ONE BEFORE, BUT SHRUNKEN HEADS ARE LOCAL CUSTOM, NO?

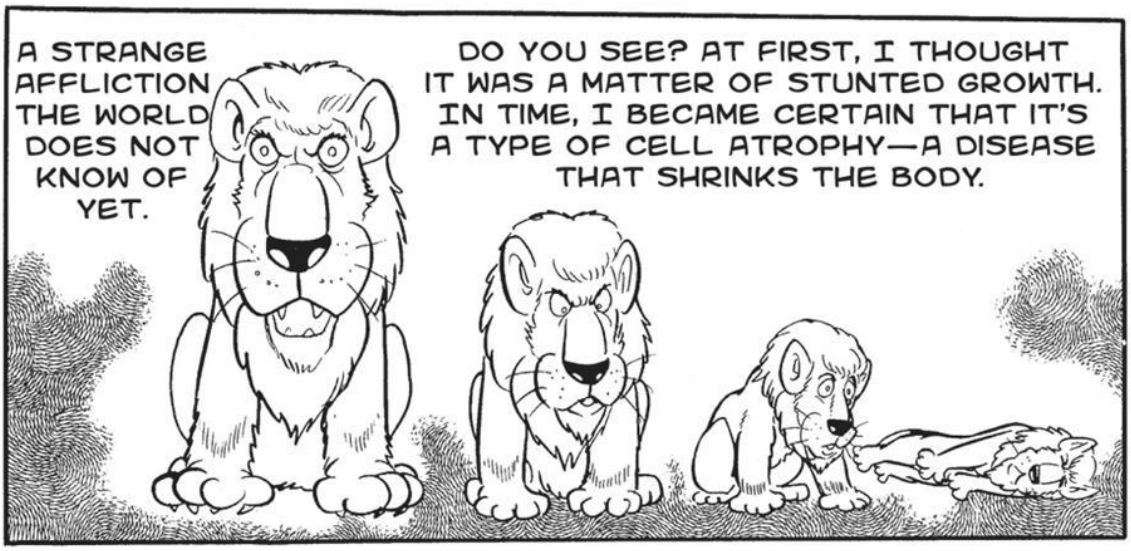


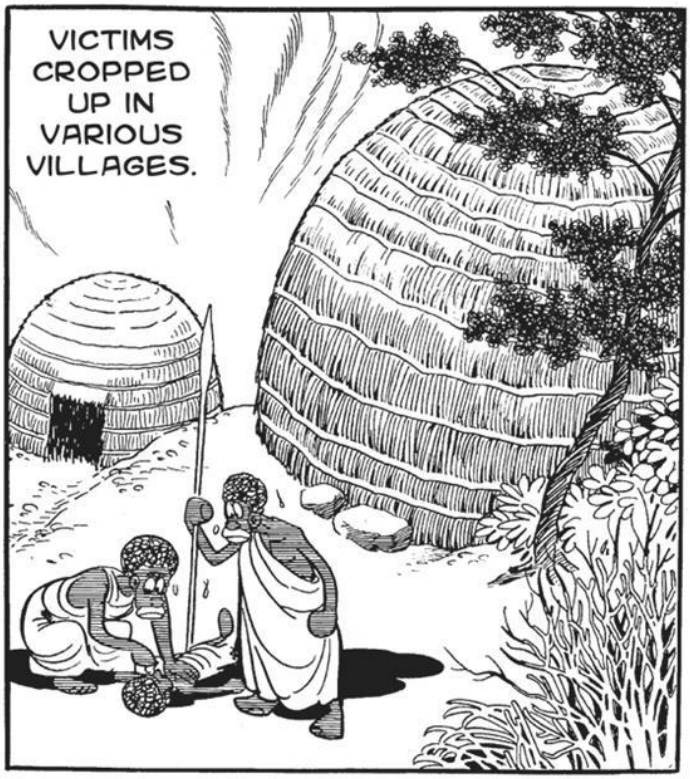
SOME KIND OF LYNX?
A STUFFED ANIMAL. OF WHAT?

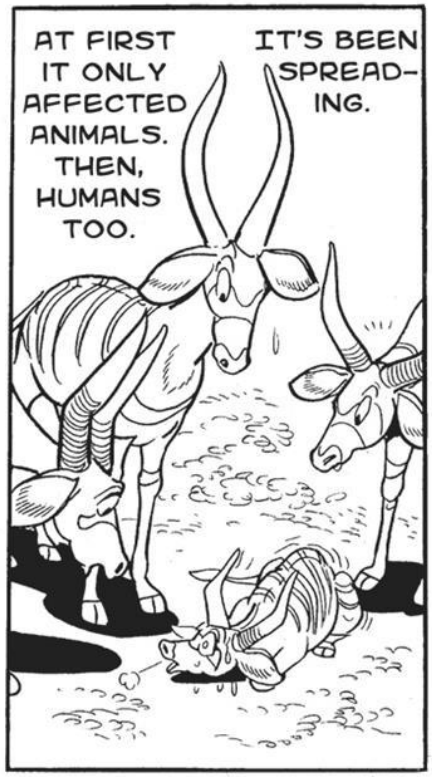
NOW HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.
YOU'D THINK SO, RIGHT?


IT CAN'T BE!
THIS IS A ...

NO!
IT'S A GENUINE LION.

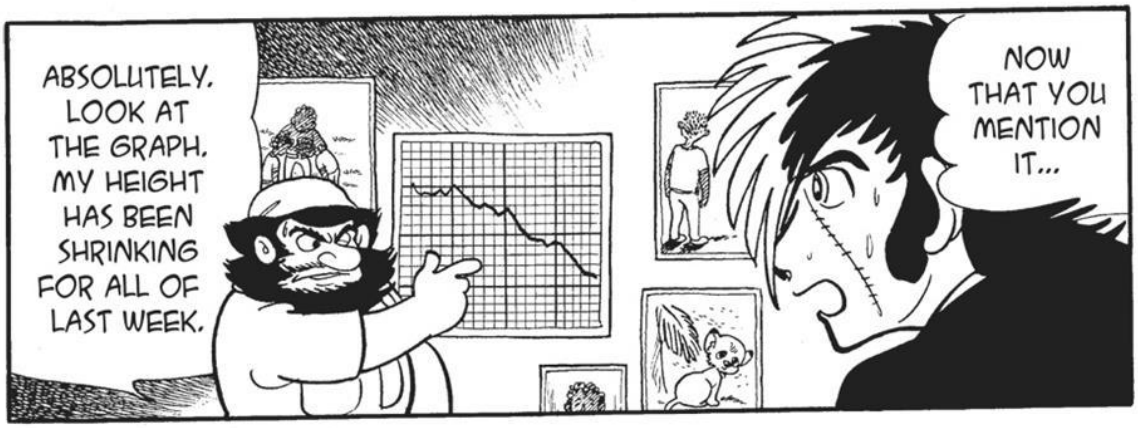

A STRANGE AFFLICTION THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW OF YET.
DO YOU SEE? AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS A MATTER OF STUNTED GROWTH. IN TIME, I BECAME CERTAIN THAT IT'S A TYPE OF CELL ATROPHY—A DISEASE THAT SHRINKS THE BODY.


VICTIMS CROPPED UP IN VARIOUS VILLAGES.

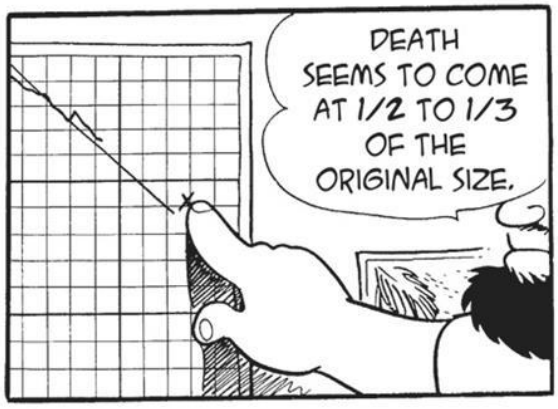

AT FIRST IT ONLY AFFECTED ANIMALS. THEN, HUMANS TOO.
IT'S BEEN SPREADING.

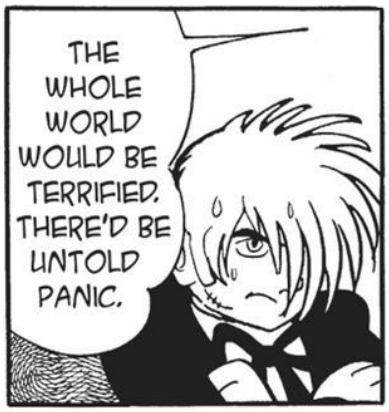
BEFORE LONG, I CONTRACTED THE DISEASE MYSELF...

I TRIED MY BEST... IT WAS BEYOND ME.


ABSOLUTELY. LOOK AT THE GRAPH. MY HEIGHT HAS BEEN SHRINKING FOR ALL OF LAST WEEK.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

YOU WERE MY STAR PUPIL, BLACK JACK. I KNOW YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO CURE THIS DISEASE.


DEATH SEEMS TO COME AT 1/2 TO 1/3 OF THE ORIGINAL SIZE.

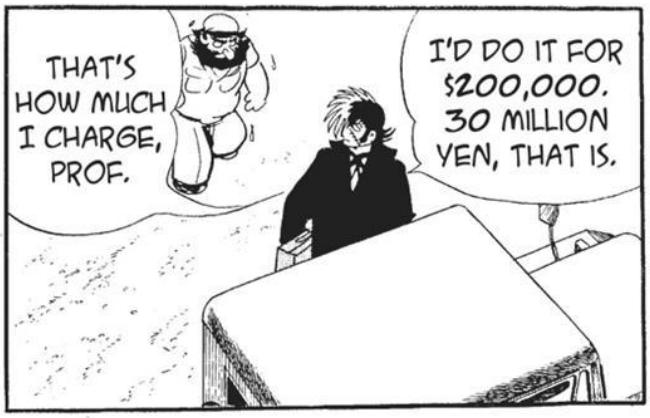

THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE TERRIFIED. THERE'D BE UNTOLD PANIC.

THINK ABOUT IT.

AND YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED THIS YET. WHY?

PLEASE, STAY HERE WITH ME AND SEARCH FOR A CURE. I BEG OF YOU!
BLACK JACK!
I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A RESEARCHER. I DON'T THINK I CAN.
I'M SORRY ...
RESEARCH NEVER DID INTEREST ME...
GOOD BYE.
DO YOU WANT THE WORLD TO PERISH?
UNDERSTANDING THIS DISEASE MIGHT MEAN SAVING MANKIND— NO, ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET!
BLACK JACK !!

THE RUMORS WERE TRUE, THEN.
Y-YOU'D CHARGE EVEN ME ?

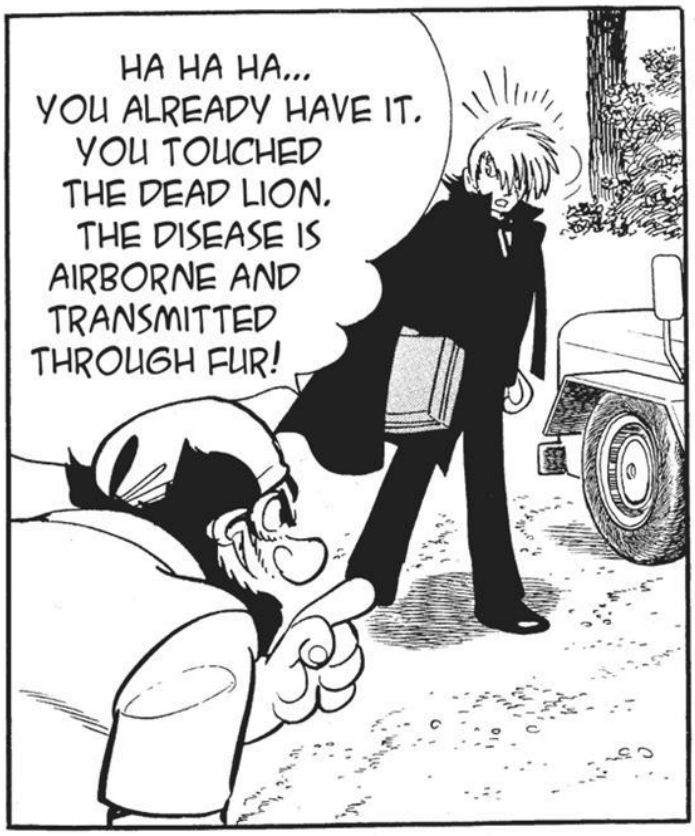

THAT'S HOW MUCH I CHARGE, PROF.
I'D DO IT FOR $200,000. 30 MILLION YEN, THAT IS.

THERE WE GO.
HA !!
SCARED, HUH?

AFTER ALL, YOU COULD INFECT ME.

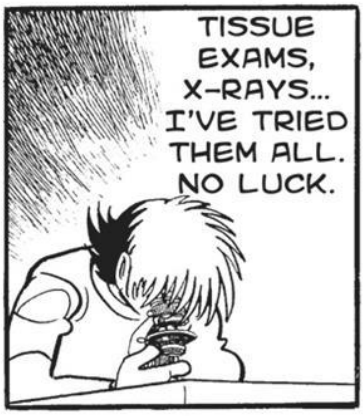
THEY SURE ARE.

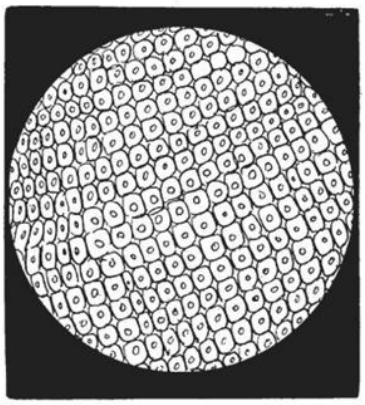
THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS ONE MONTH! IN ONE MONTH, YOU'LL BEGIN TO SHRINK. IT'LL BE TOO LATE THEN!
SURE HOPE YOU DON'T COME DOWN WITH IT.

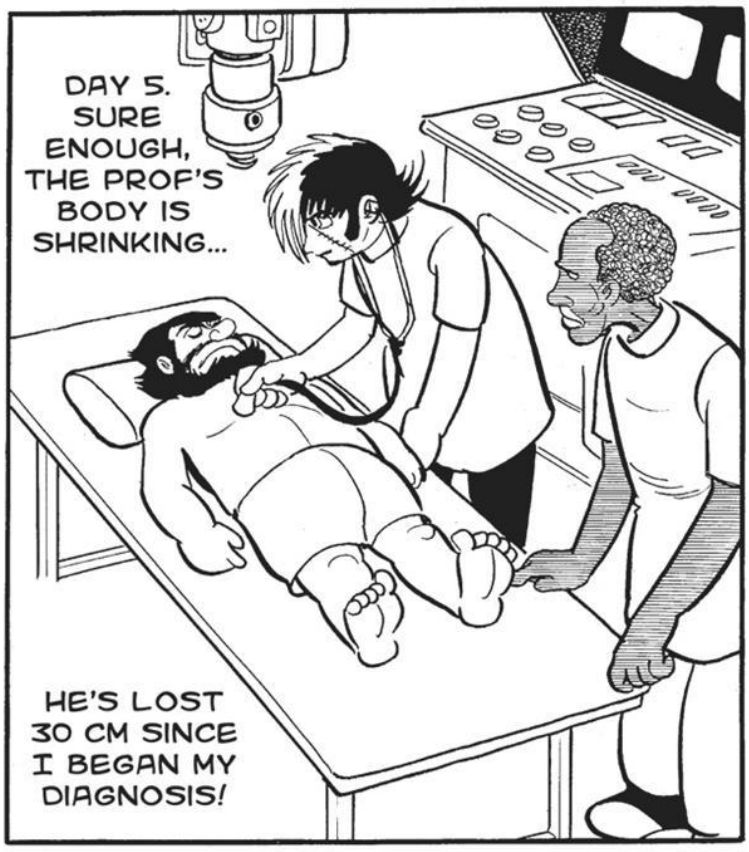

HA HA HA... YOU ALREADY HAVE IT. YOU TOUCHED THE DEAD LION. THE DISEASE IS AIRBORNE AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH FUR!

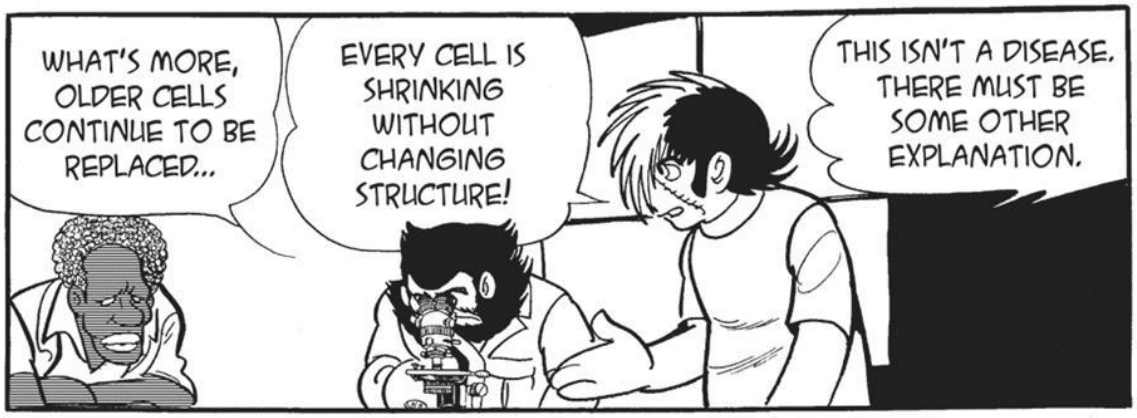
YOU'LL LIVE NEXT DOOR. BREAKFAST AT SEVEN!

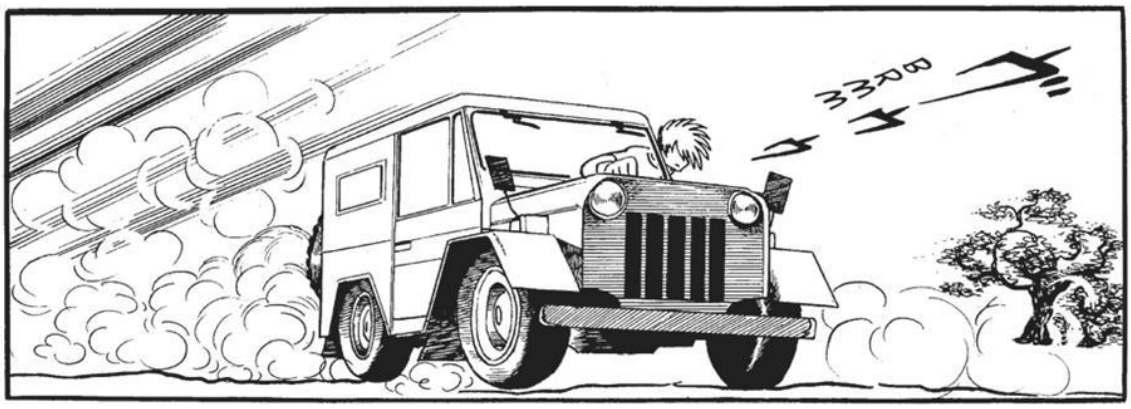
...


TISSUE EXAMS, X-RAYS... I'VE TRIED THEM ALL. NO LUCK.

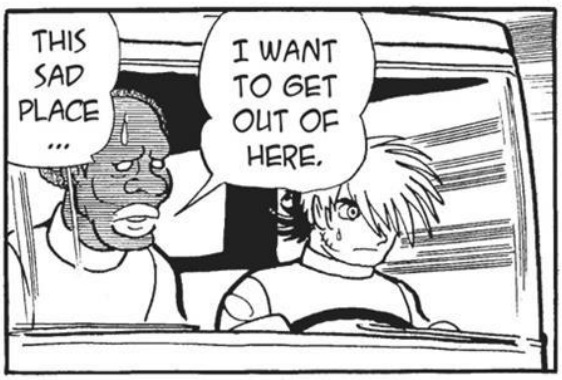


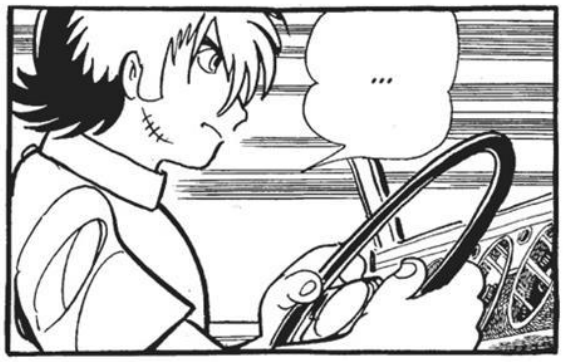

DAY 5. SURE ENOUGH, THE PROF'S BODY IS SHRINKING...
HE'S LOST 30 CM SINCE I BEGAN MY DIAGNOSIS!


WHAT'S MORE, OLDER CELLS CONTINUE TO BE REPLACED...
EVERY CELL IS SHRINKING WITHOUT CHANGING STRUCTURE!
THIS ISN'T A DISEASE. THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION.



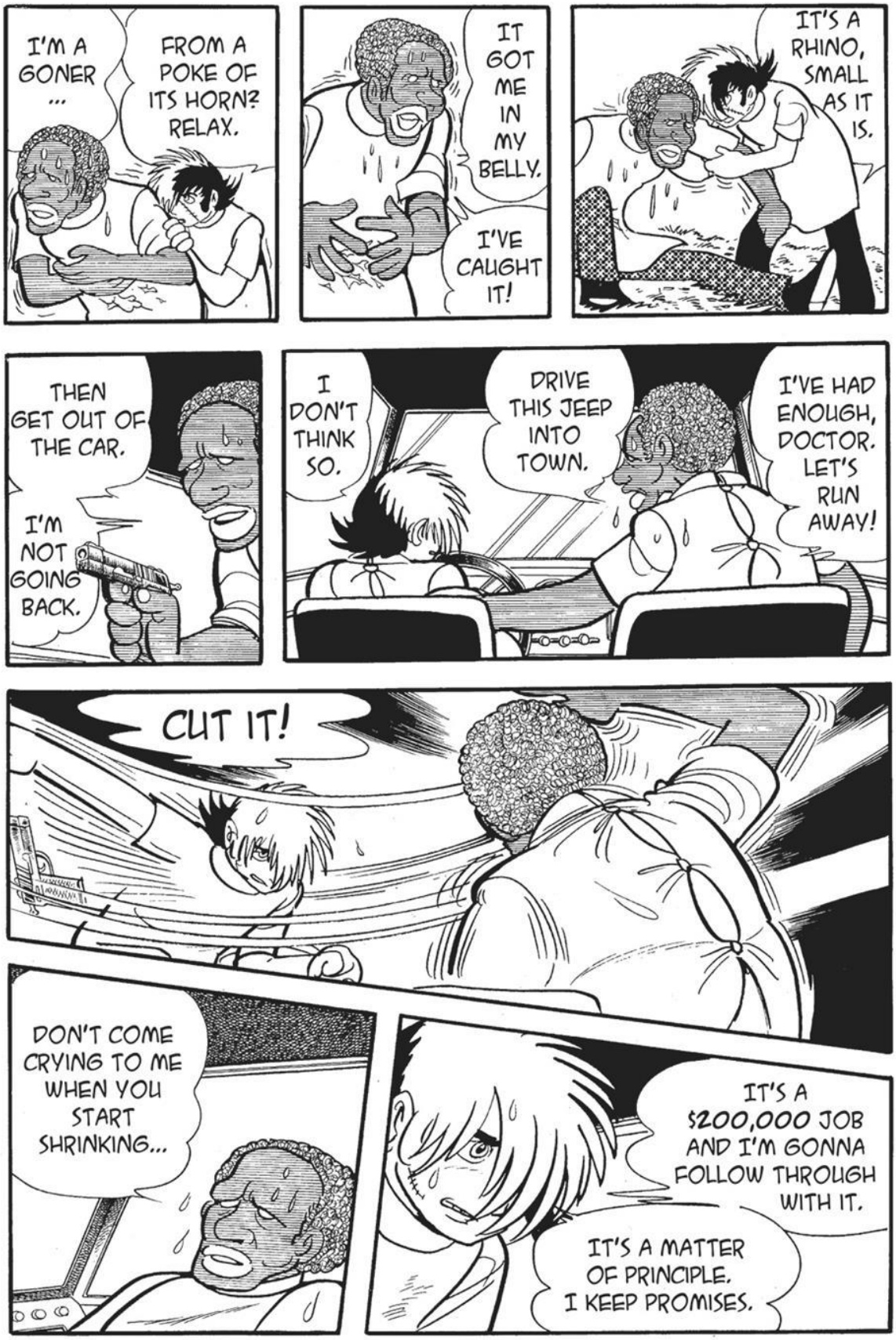
IT'S BEEN SICK FOR SOME TIME...
LOOK, A SICK ANIMAL.
A RHINO !


THIS SAD PLACE ...
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.


...

AGH
WHUP

WE'LL RUN A FULL BATTERY OF TESTS.
GET A BLOOD SAMPLE.

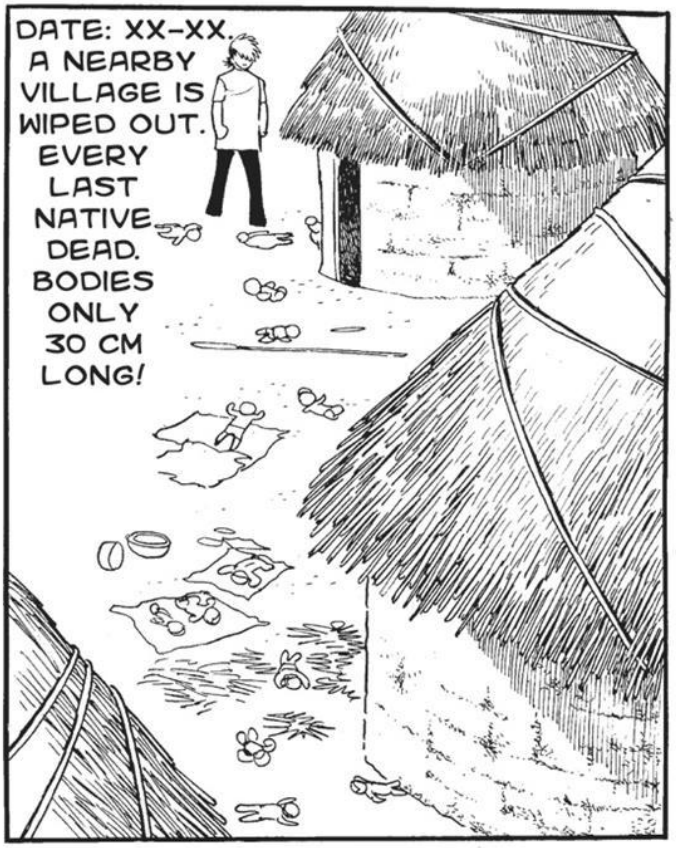

I'M A GONER ...
FROM A POKE OF ITS HORN? RELAX.
IT GOT ME IN MY BELLY.
I'VE CAUGHT IT!
IT'S A RHINO, SMALL AS IT IS.
THEN GET OUT OF THE CAR.
I'M NOT GOING BACK.
I DON'T THINK SO.
DRIVE THIS JEEP INTO TOWN.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, DOCTOR. LET'S RUN AWAY!
CUT IT!
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME WHEN YOU START SHRINKING...
IT'S A $200,000 JOB AND I'M GONNA FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT.
IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. I KEEP PROMISES.

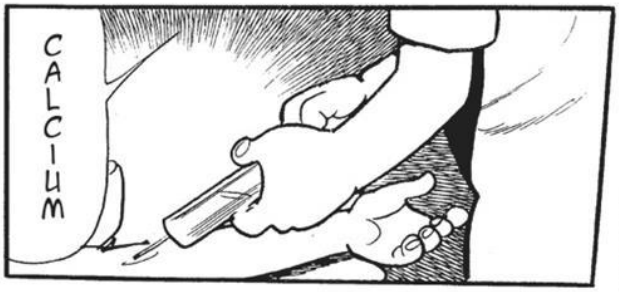
I FOUND IT DEAD IN THE AREA OF THE DROUGHT. IT'S NOT A BABY. A GENUINE ADULT SPECIMEN!

PACHYD-ERRM...
ELEFAN-TASTIC.

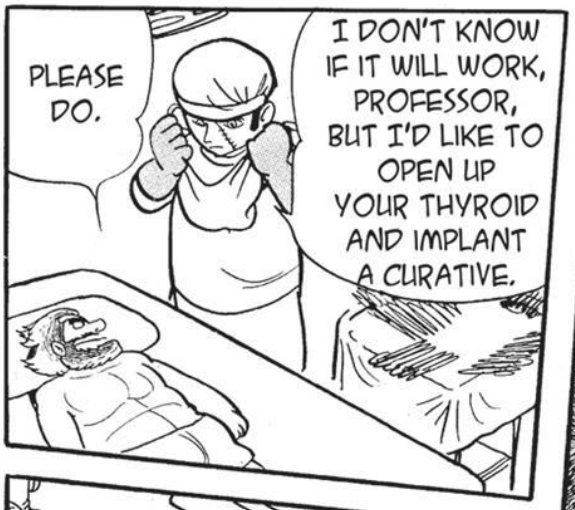
DAY 7. THE LOCAL ASSISTANT IS GONE. HE TOOK FRIGHT AND FLED.

THE DISEASE IS SPREADING WHERE THE FAMINE'S WORST.
ONE THING'S CLEAR NOW...


DATE: XX-XX. A NEARBY VILLAGE IS WIPED OUT. EVERY LAST NATIVE DEAD. BODIES ONLY 30 CM LONG!

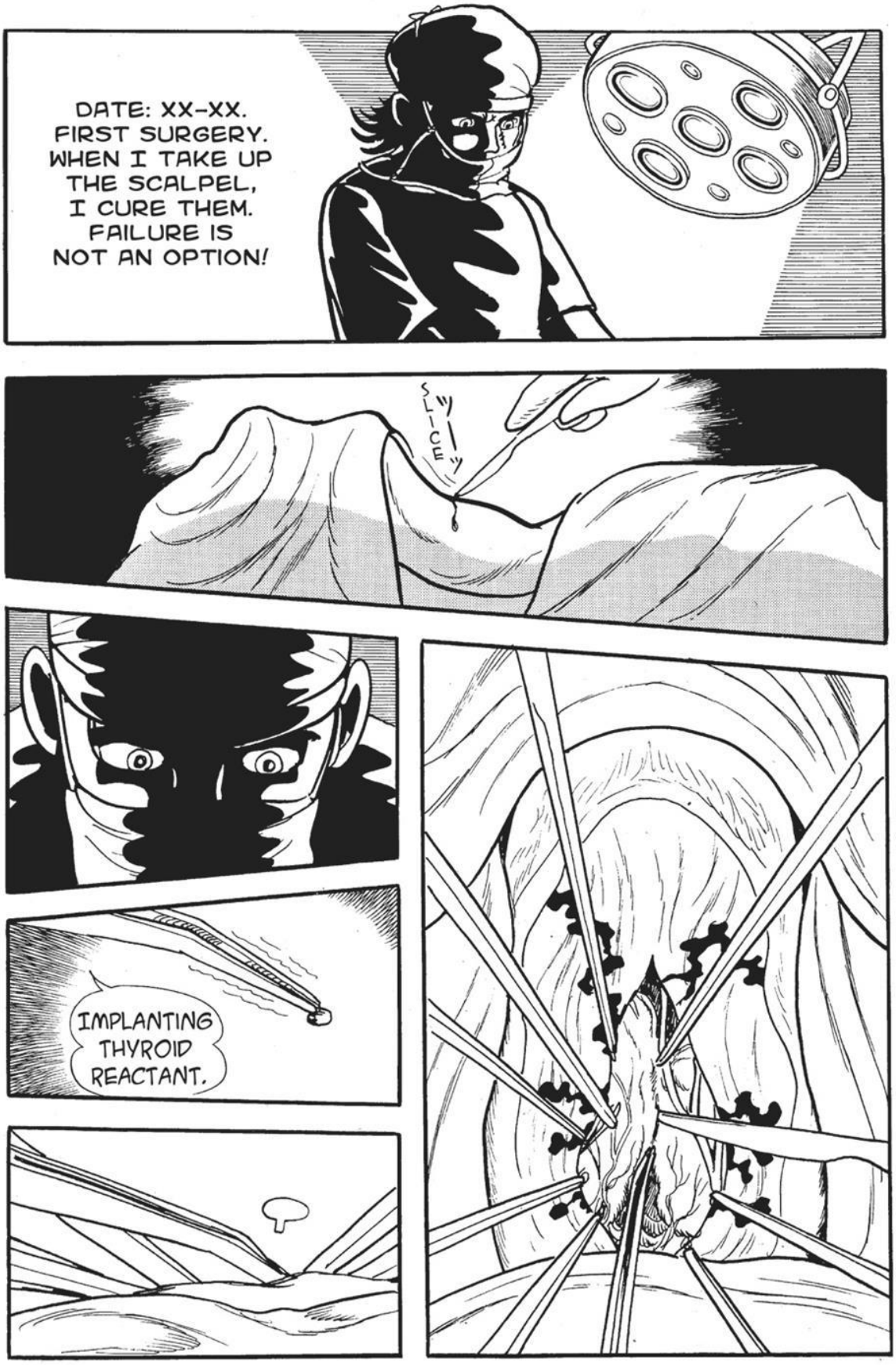

CALCIUM

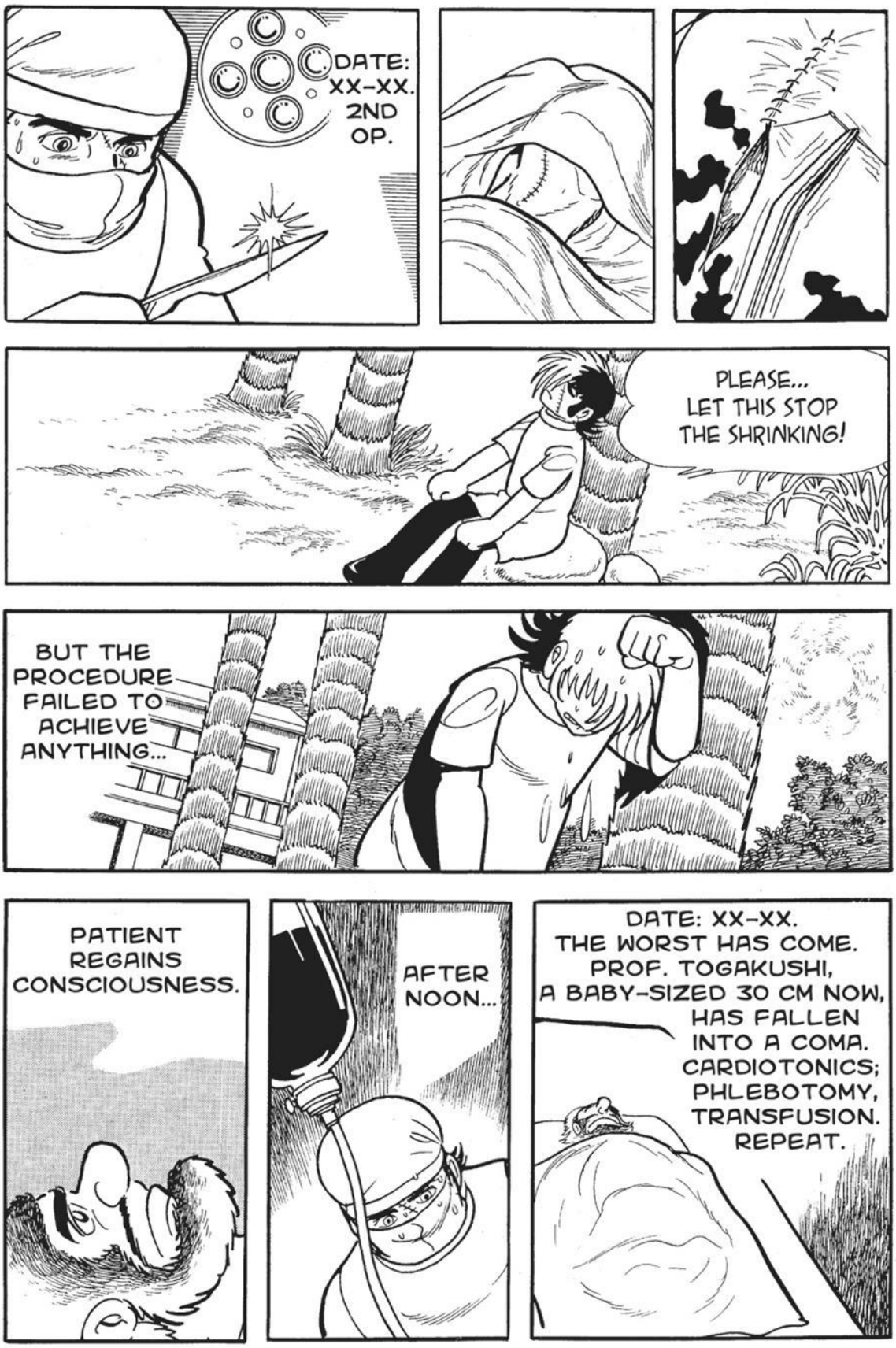
VIGANTOL THYROID DRUG.


PLEASE DO.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL WORK, PROFESSOR, BUT I'D LIKE TO OPEN UP YOUR THYROID AND IMPLANT A CURATIVE.

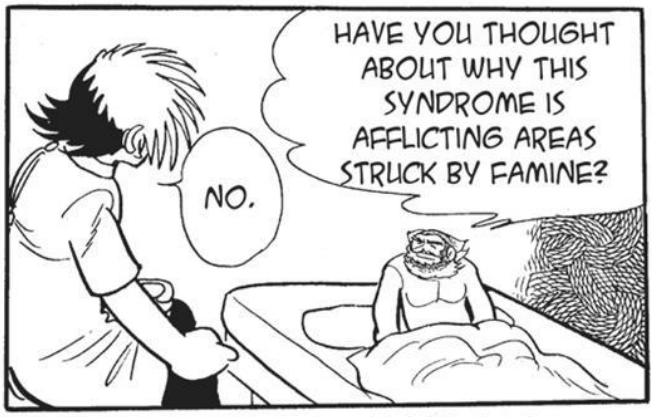
YOU'RE LIKE A CHILD...

THEY'RE ALL SHRINKING. WHY? A TOTAL ENIGMA! THE HORROR! IS IT TIME TO ESCAPE? WHAT GOD OF DEATH LURKS HERE IN THE AFRICAN HINTERLAND?

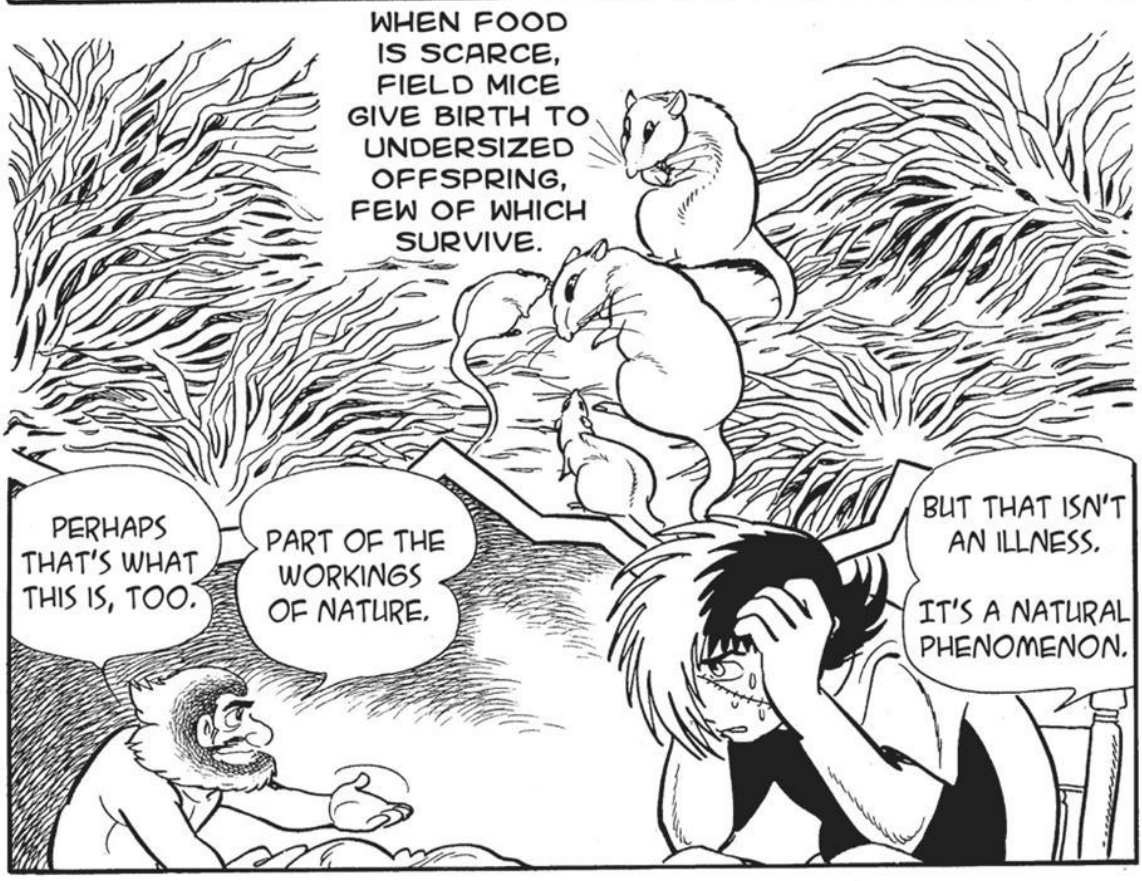

DATE: XX-XX.
FIRST SURGERY.
WHEN I TAKE UP
THE SCALPEL,
I CURE THEM.
FAILURE IS
NOT AN OPTION!
SLICE
IMPLANTING
THYROID
REACTANT.



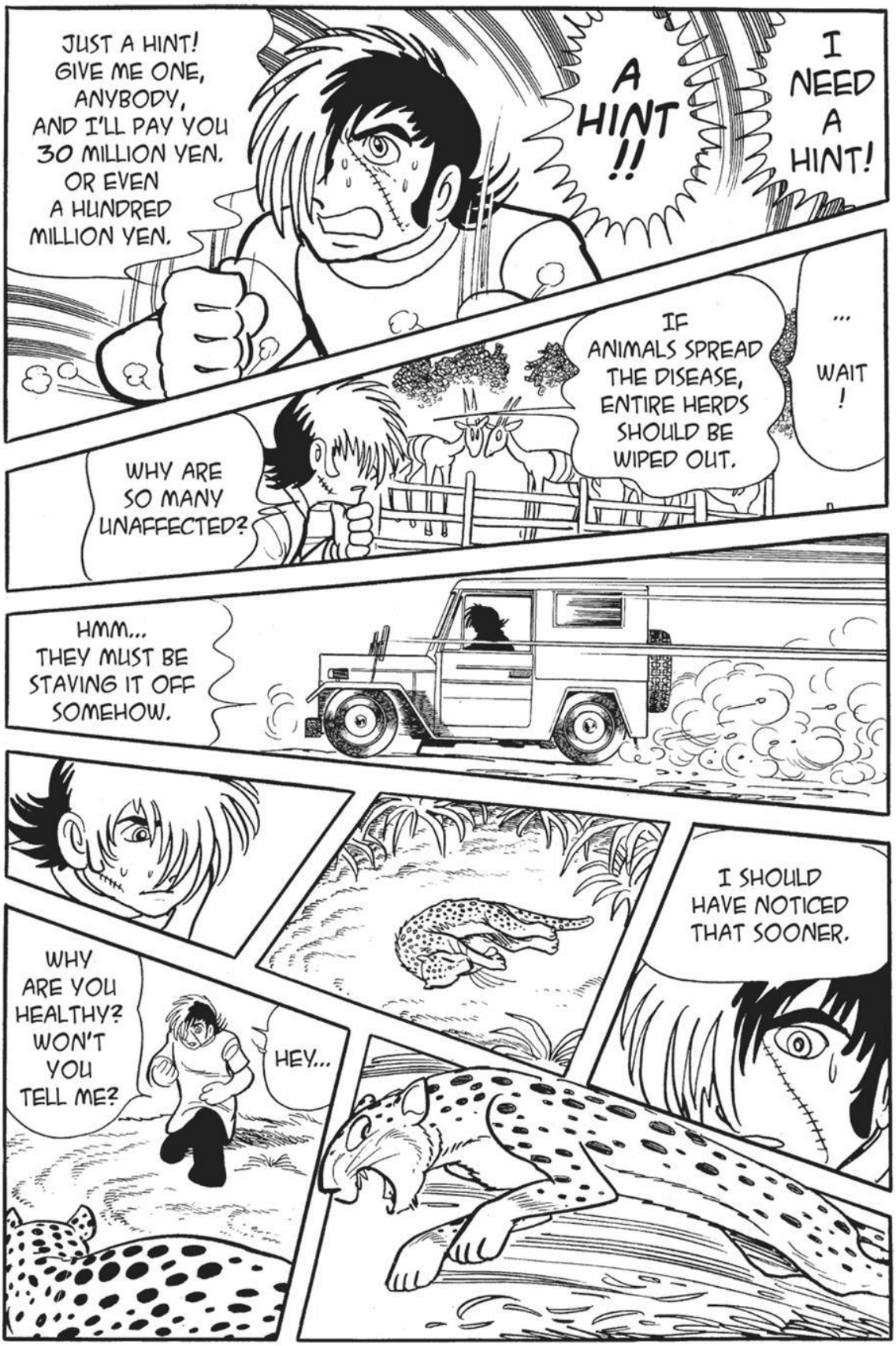
NOTE: A "PHLEBOTOMY" LETS A PORTION OF BLOOD FROM THE PATIENT'S VEIN AND IS USED TO TREAT HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGING.


HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHY THIS SYNDROME IS AFFLICTING AREAS STRUCK BY FAMINE?
NO.

SOMETHING OCCURRED TO ME WHILE I WAS ASLEEP.

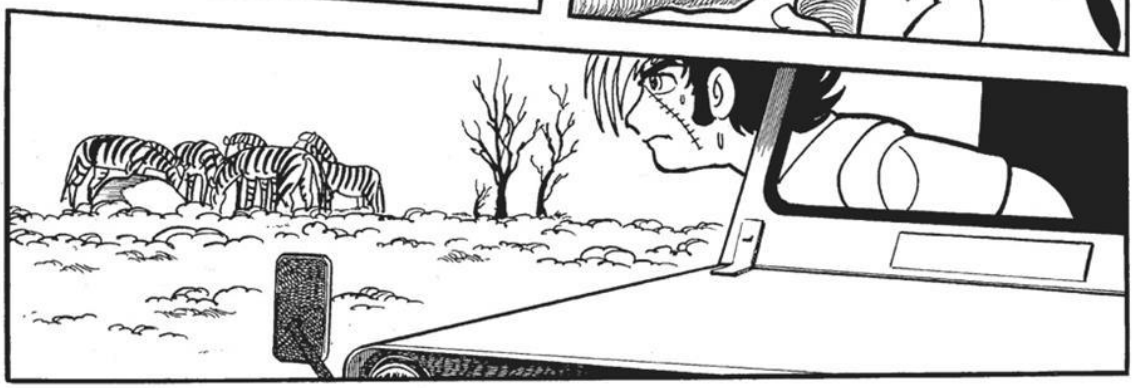

WHEN FOOD IS SCARCE, FIELD MICE GIVE BIRTH TO UNDERSIZED OFFSPRING, FEW OF WHICH SURVIVE.
PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT THIS IS, TOO.
PART OF THE WORKINGS OF NATURE.
BUT THAT ISN'T AN ILLNESS.
IT'S A NATURAL PHENOMENON.

YOU WANT TO WRITE THAT OFF AS NATURAL? THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSES IT. BODY FUNCTIONS ARE NORMAL, AND YET, THEY DIE. EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THEM.

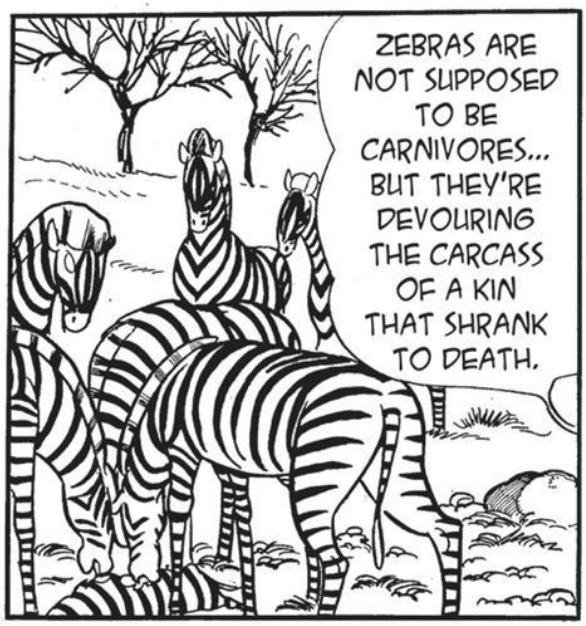

JUST A HINT! GIVE ME ONE, ANYBODY, AND I'LL PAY YOU 30 MILLION YEN. OR EVEN A HUNDRED MILLION YEN.
A HINT !!
I NEED A HINT!
IF ANIMALS SPREAD THE DISEASE, ENTIRE HERDS SHOULD BE WIPED OUT.
... WAIT !
WHY ARE SO MANY UNAFFECTED?
HMM... THEY MUST BE STAVING IT OFF SOMEHOW.
I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT SOONER.
WHY ARE YOU HEALTHY? WON'T YOU TELL ME?
HEY...

GYAK
GYAK

PLEASE, TELL ME WHY.



YES!
MAYBE THEY KNOW BY INSTINCT THAT THEY CAN DEVELOP IMMUNITIES WITH THE HELP OF TOXINS... FROM TISSUE THAT SUCCUMBED TO...
I GOT IT!!


ZEBRAS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE CARNIVORES... BUT THEY'RE DEVOURING THE CARCASS OF A KIN THAT SHRANK TO DEATH.

I NEED TO MAKE AN IMMUNO-SERUM!
A SERUM !
PROFESSOR! I'M GOING TO INJECT YOU WITH A SERUM!
I-IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE, BLACK JACK. I'M... I'M PREPARED TO DIE...
WH-WHEN I DIE, USE MY BLOOD TO MAKE AN IMMUNOSERUM. BE THE FIRST TO TAKE IT. YOU WON'T HAVE TO DIE.
PROF !!
BUT I WANT TO SAVE YOU!

IT'S OKAY, BLACK JACK.
I DON'T WANT TO FAIL. GIVE ME JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME...
PROFESSOR!
I WORKED SO HARD TO GET THIS FAR!
GOD ?
IT'S A WARNING. FROM GOD...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS REALLY IS?
THIS ILLNESS NEVER HAD A TRUE CAUSE.
DOESN'T IT MEAN THAT, IF ALL LIFE IS TO SHARE IN THIS PLANET'S BOUNTY, W-WE MUST ALL... SCALE DOWN?
I THINK I SEE HIS DESIGN NOW, BLACK JACK.
L-LIVING THINGS REDUCING THEIR SIZE IN THIS FAMINE...

YOU, SO-CALLED GOD! YOU ARE CRUEL!!

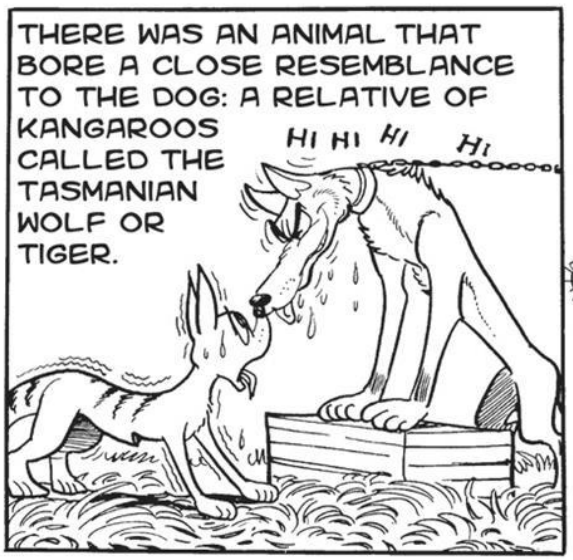
PROFESSOR

...

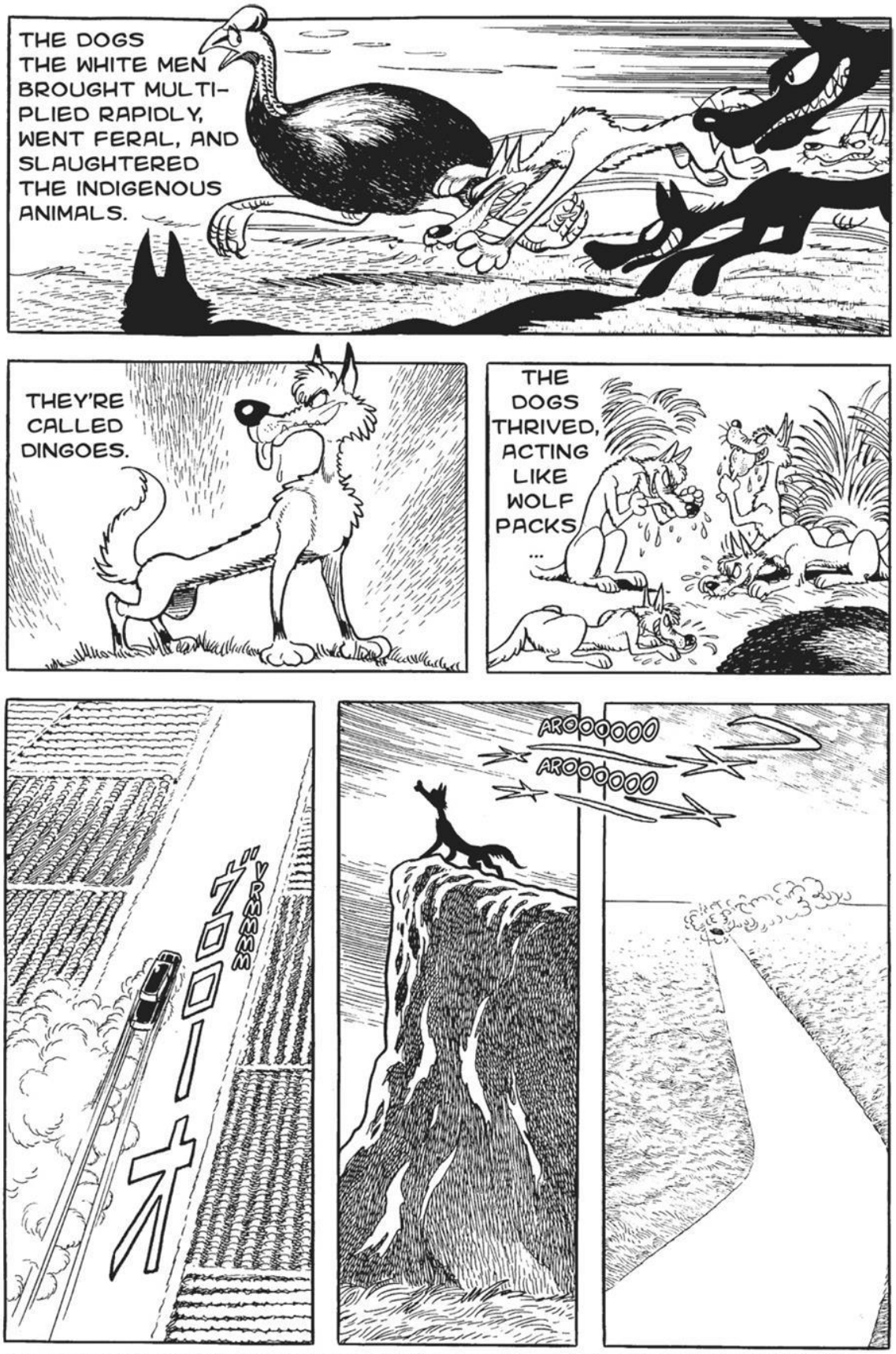
IF THAT IS YOUR DESIGN ...
AND A BILLION STARVES TO DEATH IN A FOOD SHORTAGE!
AS A RESULT THERE'S A POPULATION EXPLOSION ...
DOCTORS CURE ILLNESSES AND SAVE LIVES!
WHAT ARE WE DOCTORS FOR?

DINGOES

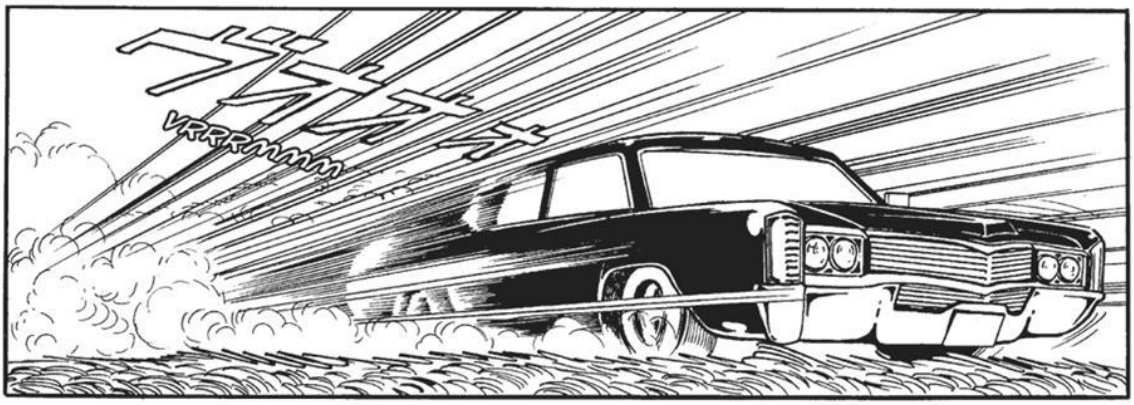
1770—WHEN CAPTAIN COOK FIRST LANDED ON THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT, IT WAS A PARADISE FOR KANGAROOS, CASSOWARIES, AND PLATYPI.
BANG! BANG!


THERE WAS AN ANIMAL THAT BORE A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO THE DOG: A RELATIVE OF KANGAROOS CALLED THE TASMANIAN WOLF OR TIGER.
HI HI HI HI

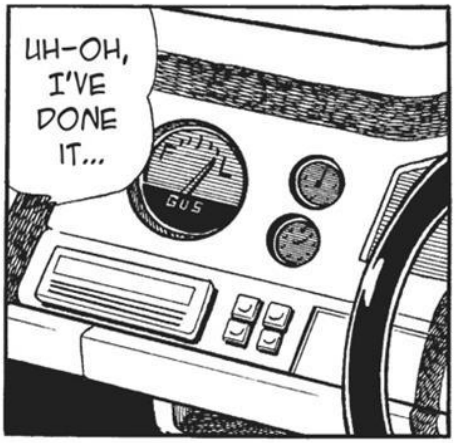
AMAZINGLY, THERE WERE NO DOGS IN AUSTRALIA.

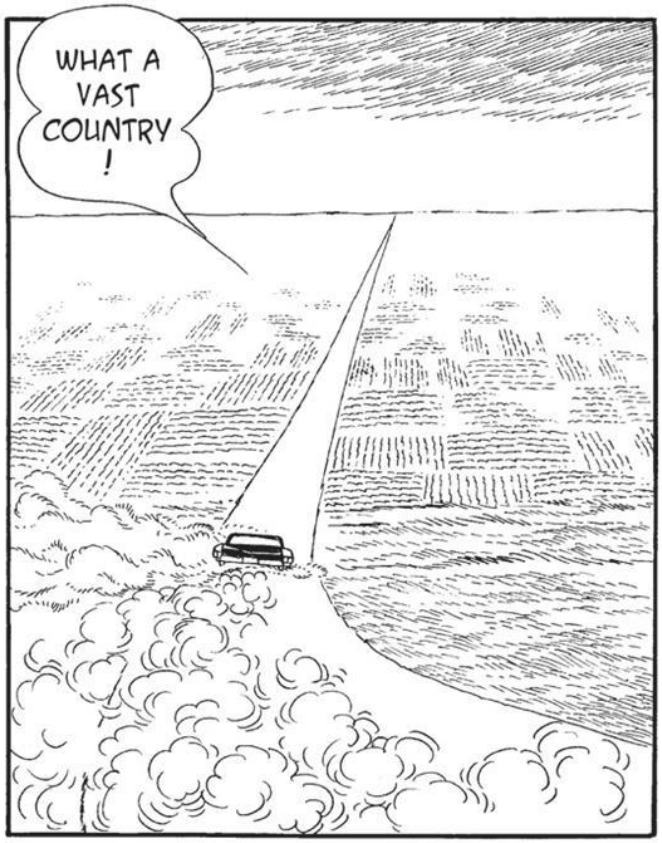


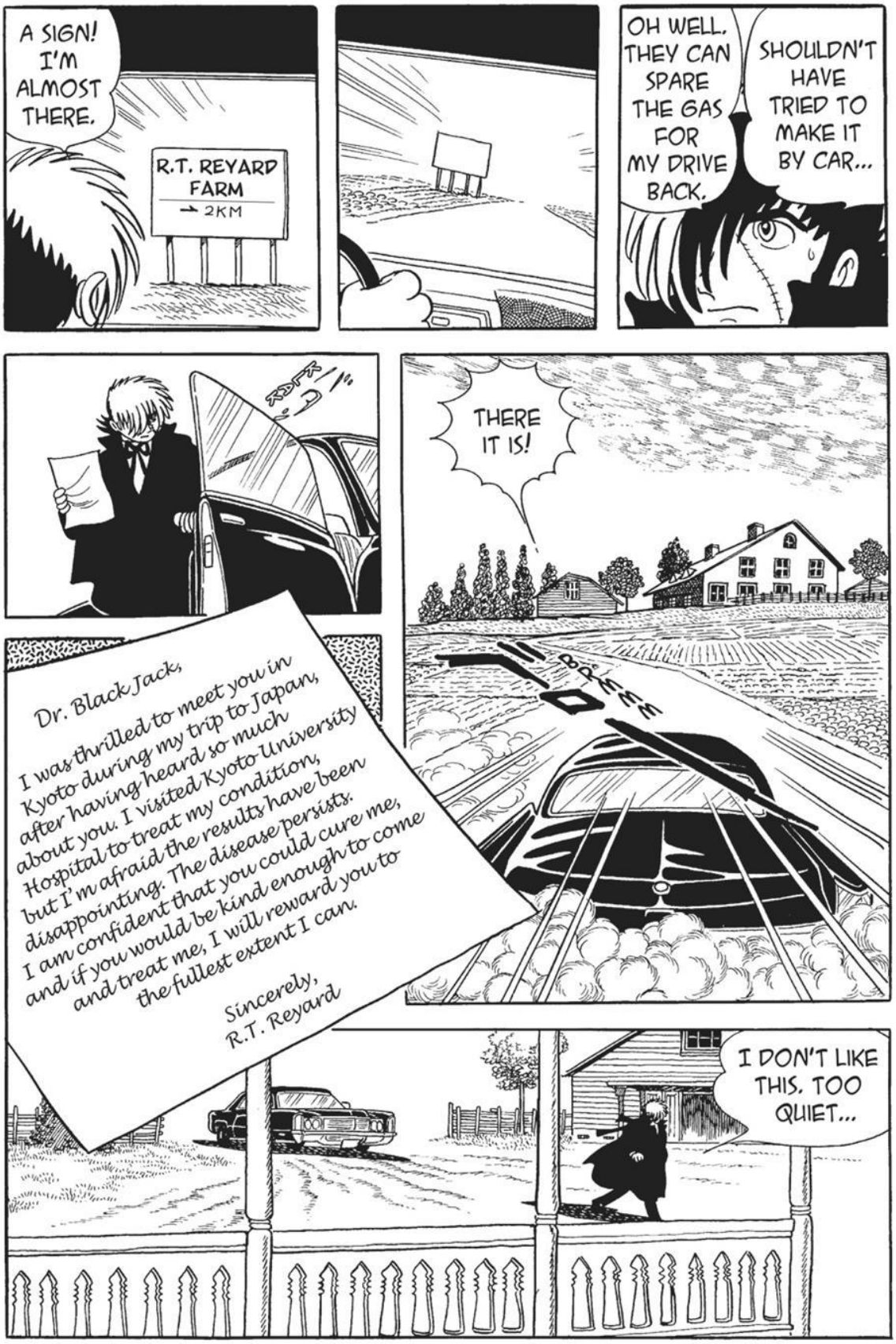
NOTE: DINGOES IN FACT PREDATE EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND ARE TODAY BELIEVED TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED EARLIER INFLUXES OF HUMANS, FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.


VRRRMMM

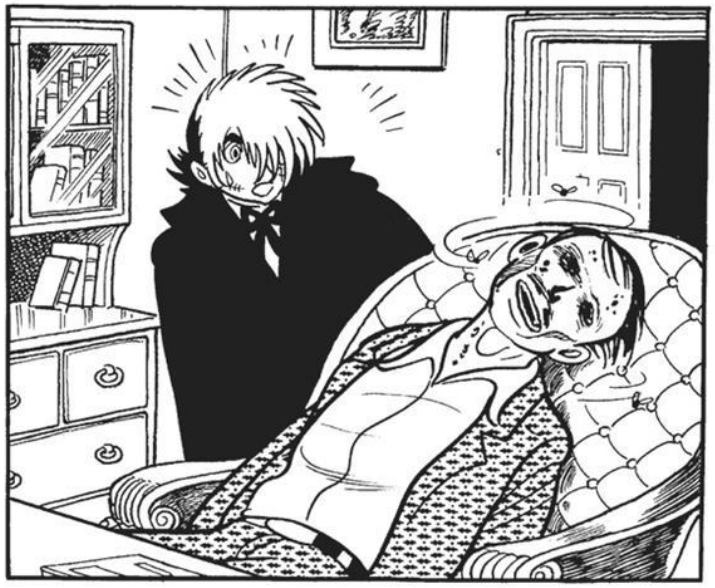
THERE HASN'T BEEN A GAS STATION IN 300 KMS.


UH-OH, I'VE DONE IT...
GUS


WHAT A VAST COUNTRY !

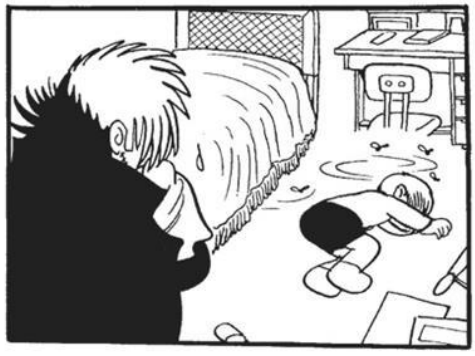

A SIGN! I'M ALMOST THERE.
R.T. REYARD FARM
→ 2KM
OH WELL. THEY CAN SPARE THE GAS FOR MY DRIVE BACK.
SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO MAKE IT BY CAR...
THERE IT IS!
Dr. Black Jack,
I was thrilled to meet you in Kyoto during my trip to Japan, after having heard so much about you. I visited Kyoto University Hospital to treat my condition, but I'm afraid the results have been disappointing. The disease persists. I am confident that you could cure me, and if you would be kind enough to come and treat me, I will reward you to the fullest extent I can.
Sincerely,
R.T. Reyard
I DON'T LIKE THIS. TOO QUIET...

DING DONG
DING DONG
CRRRRRR
TROMP
TROMP
CRRRRK
MR. REYARD!
MR. REYARD?
IS ANY-ONE HOME?
STRANGE... DO THEY LEAVE DOORS UNLOCKED WHEN THEY GO OUT AROUND HERE?

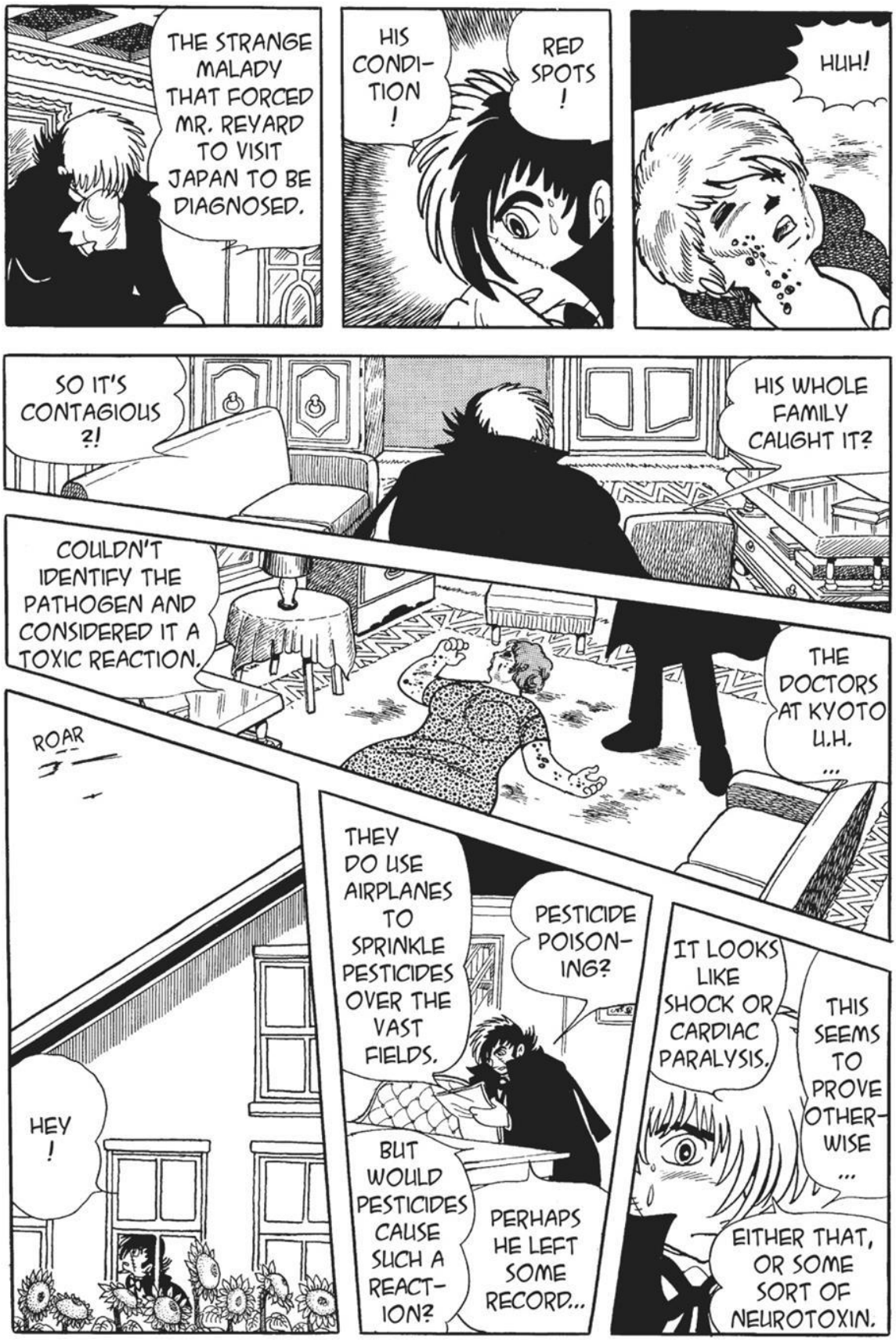


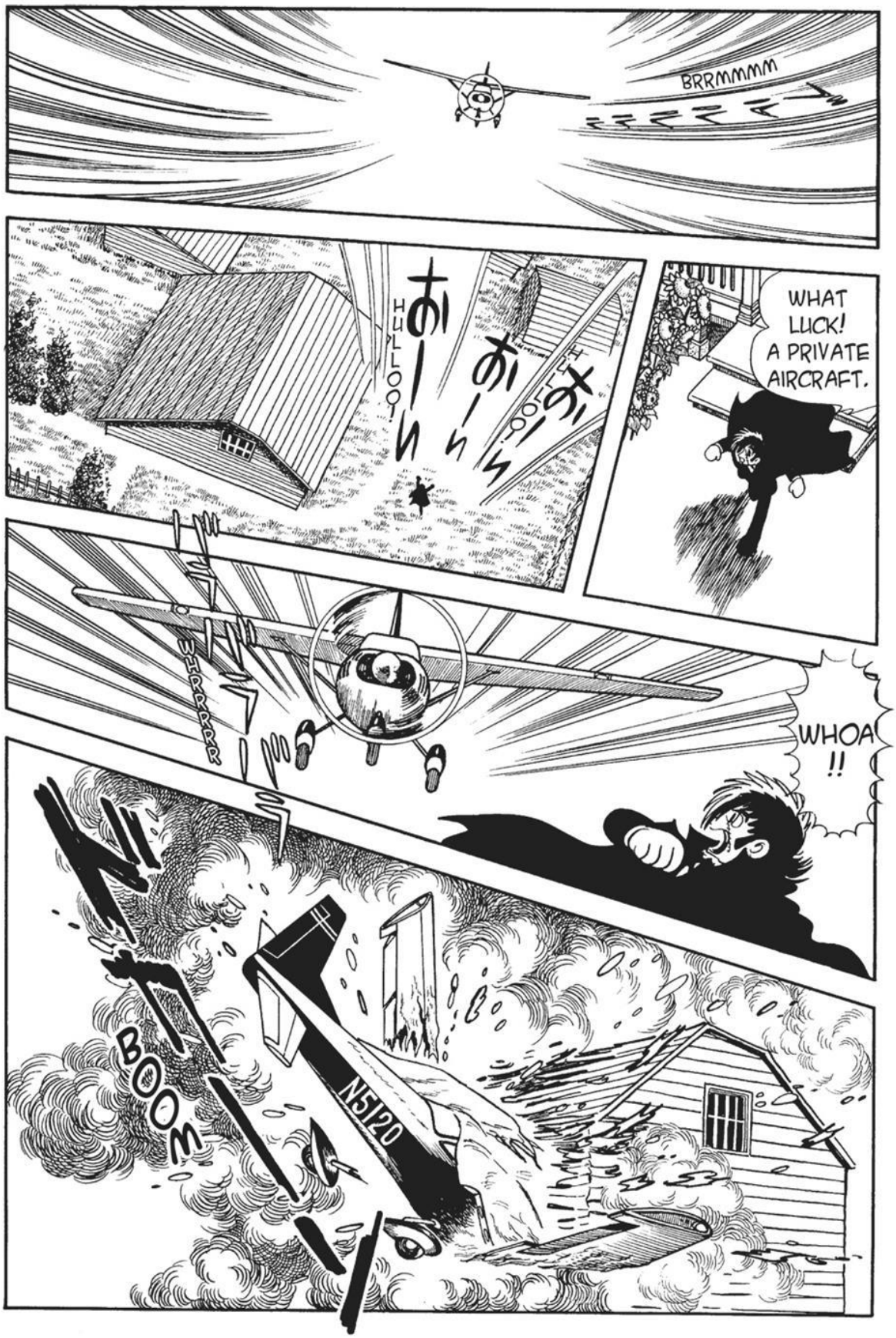
MR. REYARD !!

DEAD... AND HAVE BEEN FOR DAYS...



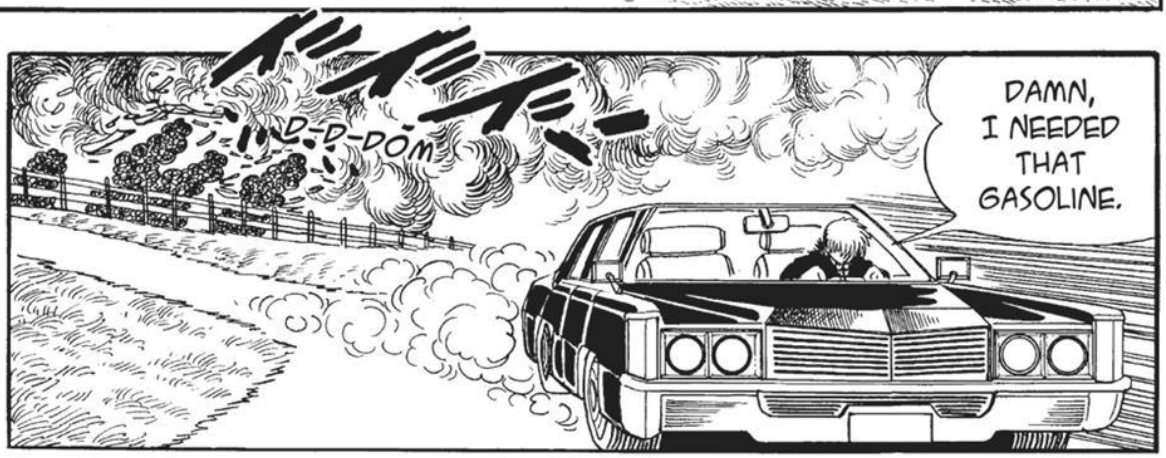
NO WOUNDS... SO IT WASN'T A ROBBERY, OR WILD BEASTS ...
THE WHOLE FAMILY !

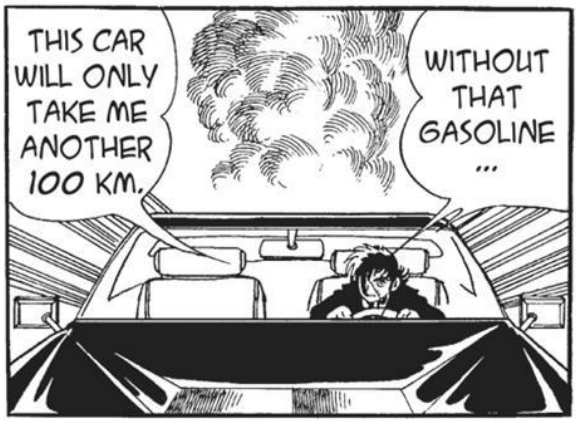

THE STRANGE MALADY THAT FORCED MR. REYARD TO VISIT JAPAN TO BE DIAGNOSED.
HIS CONDI-TION!
RED SPOTS!
HUH!
SO IT'S CONTAGIOUS?!
HIS WHOLE FAMILY CAUGHT IT?
COULDN'T IDENTIFY THE PATHOGEN AND CONSIDERED IT A TOXIC REACTION.
THE DOCTORS AT KYOTO U.H. ...
ROAR
HEY!
THEY DO USE AIRPLANES TO SPRINKLE PESTICIDES OVER THE VAST FIELDS.
PESTICIDE POISON-ING?
BUT WOULD PESTICIDES CAUSE SUCH A REACT-ION?
PERHAPS HE LEFT SOME RECORD...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHOCK OR CARDIAC PARALYSIS.
THIS SEEMS TO PROVE OTHER-WISE ...
EITHER THAT, OR SOME SORT OF NEUROTOXIN.

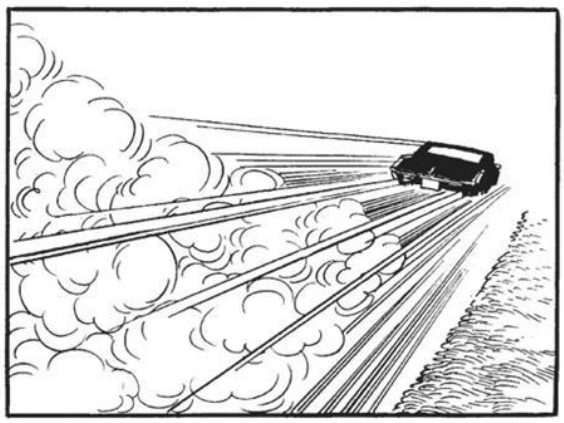

BRRMMMM
WHAT LUCK! A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.
HULLOO!
HULLOO!
WHOA !!
WHOOOOOSH
BOOM
N5120

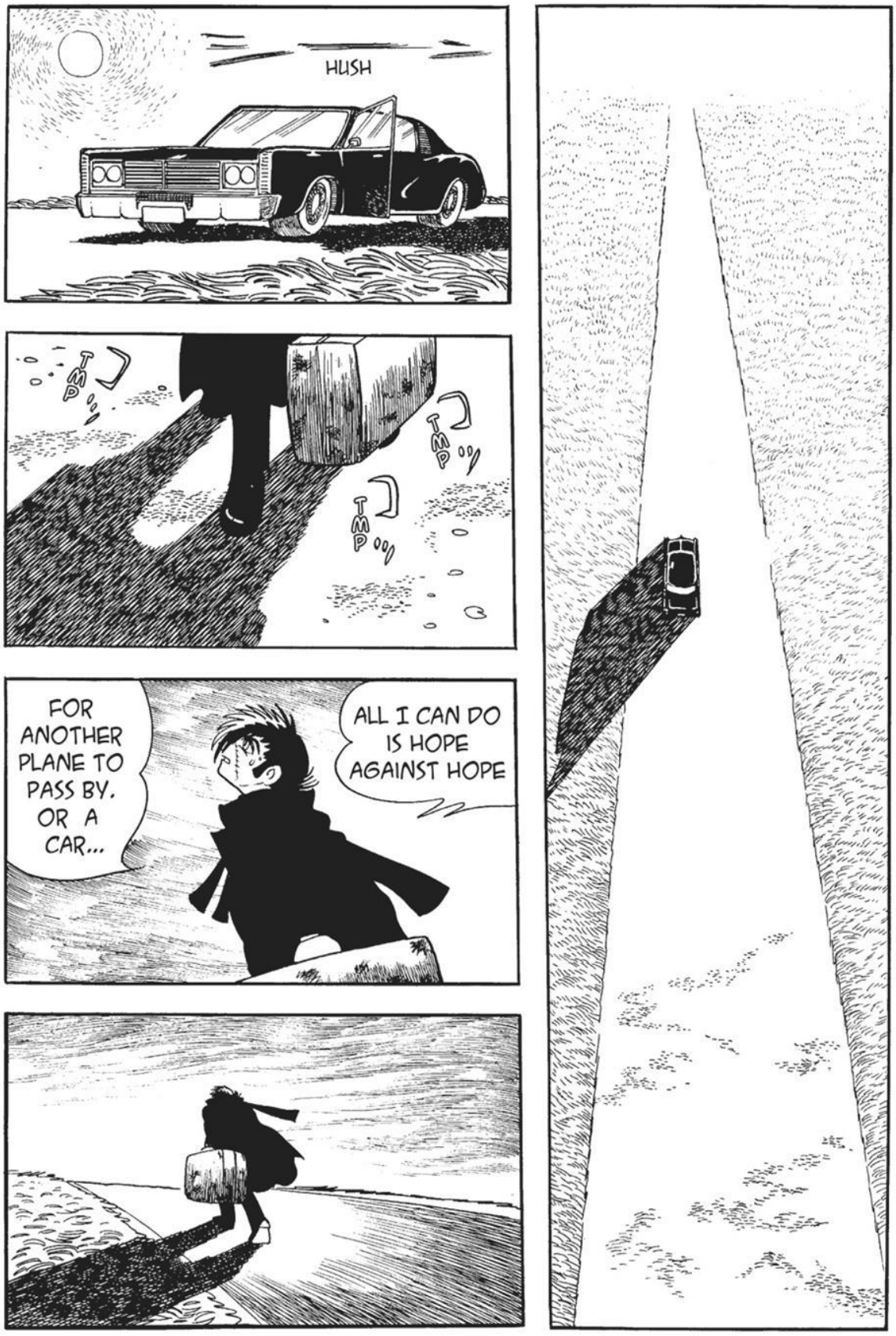
WHUMP
H-HELP ME... A... A DOCTOR ...
HANG IN THERE.
ボボボボーン
B-B-B-BOM
UGH... THERE WAS GASOLINE IN THAT SHED!
HE HAS THE RED SPOTS, TOO!
ガクッ
SLUMP

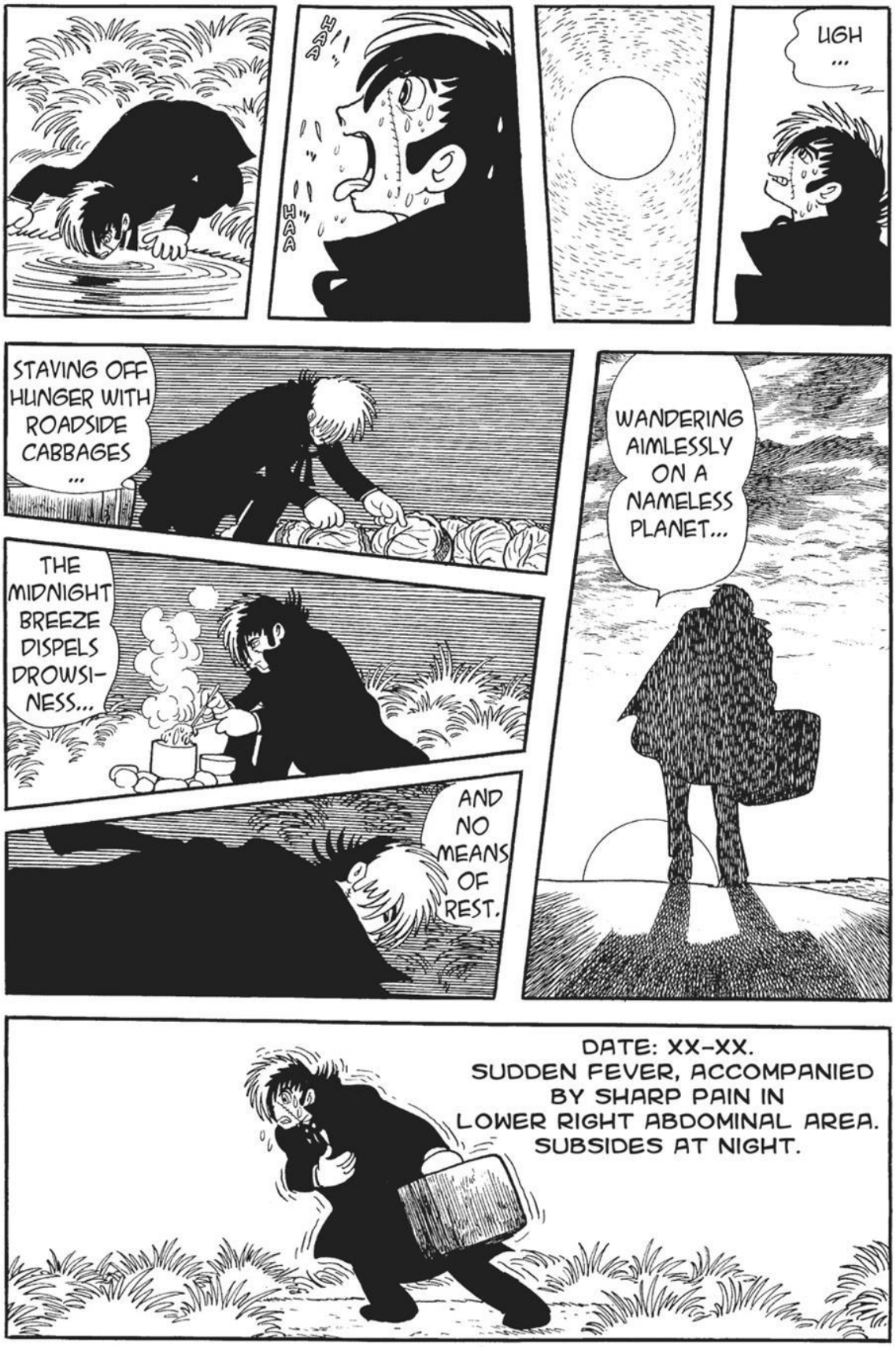
ガファーン!!
KA-FOOM


D-D-DOM
DAMN, I NEEDED THAT GASOLINE.


THIS CAR WILL ONLY TAKE ME ANOTHER 100 KM.
WITHOUT THAT GASOLINE ...

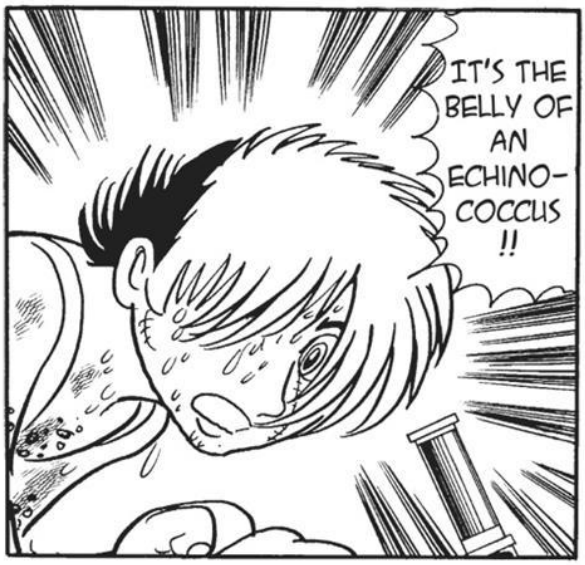


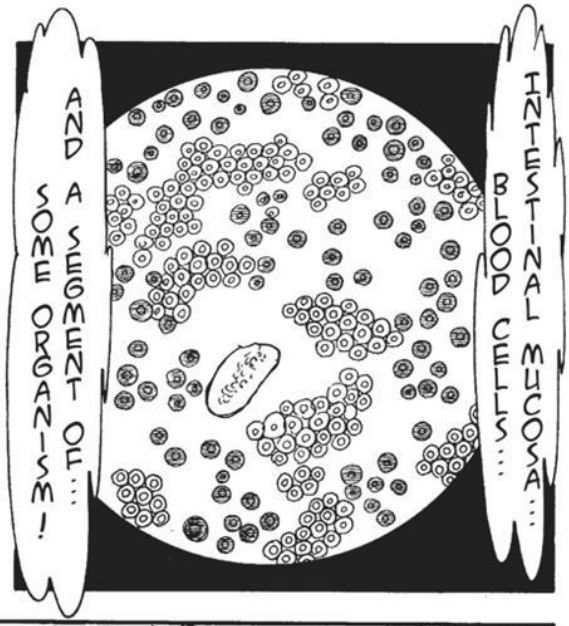

HUSH
TMP
TMP
TMP
FOR ANOTHER PLANE TO PASS BY. OR A CAR...
ALL I CAN DO IS HOPE AGAINST HOPE


HAA
HAA
UGH ...
STAVING OFF HUNGER WITH ROADSIDE CABBAGES ...
THE MIDNIGHT BREEZE DISPELS DROWSI-NESS...
AND NO MEANS OF REST.
WANDERING AIMLESSLY ON A NAMELESS PLANET...
DATE: XX-XX.
SUDDEN FEVER, ACCOMPANIED BY SHARP PAIN IN LOWER RIGHT ABDOMINAL AREA. SUBSIDES AT NIGHT.

LEUCO-CYTES HIGH, BUT NO BLUMBERG'S SIGN INDICATIVE OF APPENDICITIS.
DATE: XX-XX. COLLAPSED AFTER WALKING 10 KM. SLIGHT FEVER. PAIN IN ABDOMEN RETURNS. PERFORMED BLOOD TEST FOR APPENDICITIS, PERFORATIVE PERITONITIS.
DOSE OF ANTI-BIOTICS.
NOT MUCH EF-FECT ...
DATE: XX-XX. SLIGHT FEVER. PAIN HAS SUBSIDED, RESTED TO BE SAFE.
IT'S THOSE SPOTS. ON MY LEGS TOO!
AH !
DATE: XX-XX. SEVERE THIRST, PERSIS-TENT FEVER, AND...

OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE ?
WILL I DIE SUDDENLY LIKE THAT FAMILY?
NOW I HAVE THEM, TOO!
WHAT'LL BECOME OF ME?
SO IT IS CONTAGIOUS AFTER ALL?
I'M DYING!!
I'M GOING TO DIE!
AARGH! OWW... OUCH!!
I CAN'T STAND IT...
TESTED STOOL: COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I FOUND.
DATE: XX-XX. STAB-BING PAIN; SEVERE DIAR-RHEA.


IT'S THE BELLY OF AN ECHINO-COCCUS !!

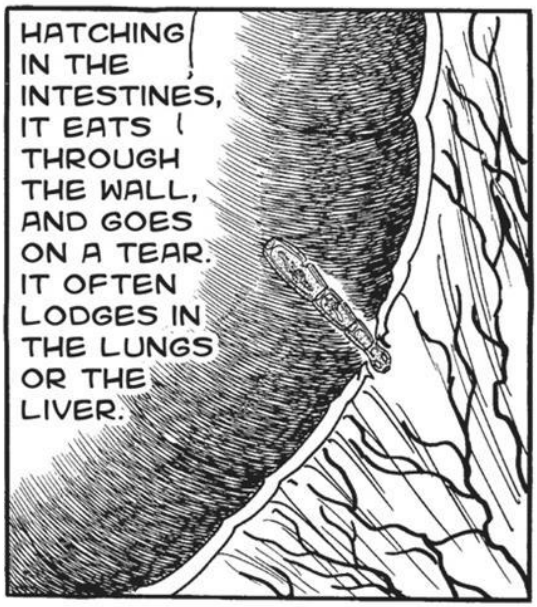

INTESTINAL MUCOSA... BLOOD CELLS...
AND A SEGMENT OF... SOME ORGANISM!

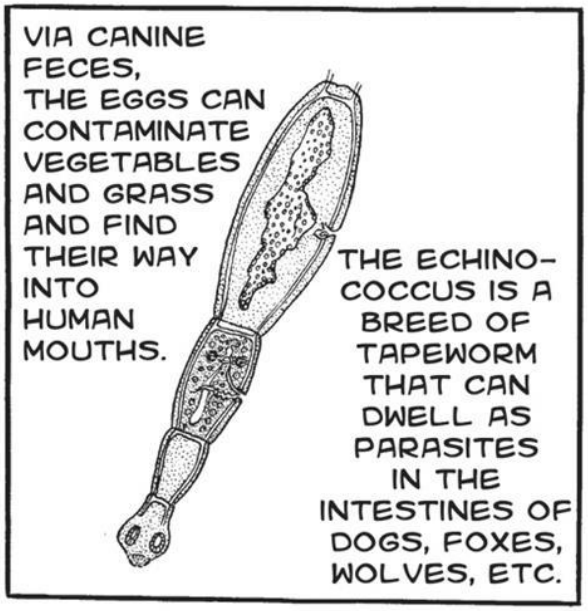
AND THIS THING KILLED THAT FAMILY, TOO? NO...
TRYING TO CHEW THROUGH MY INTESTINES, IS IT?
IS IT WHAT'S CAUSING THE AB-DOMINAL PAIN?

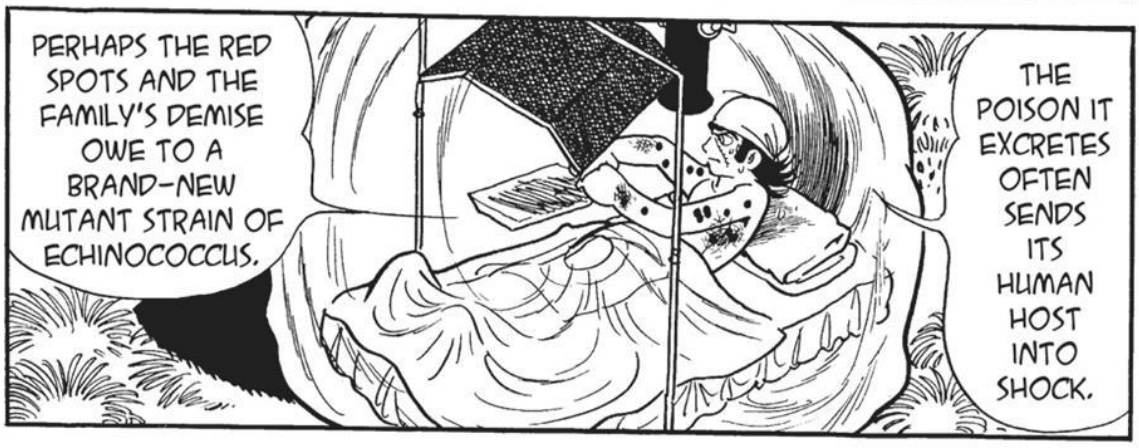
I PREPARED TO OPERATE... THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE THE ECHINOCOCCUS.
FLOOM

FOR ONE THING, AN ECHINO-COCCUS WOULDN'T CAUSE RED SPOTS.

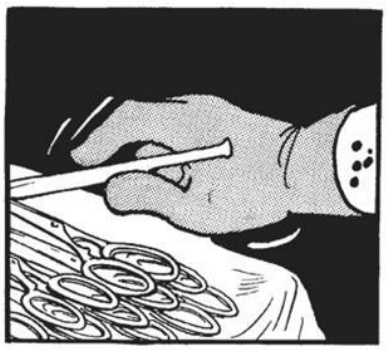
PERHAPS IT'S AN UNKNOWN STRAIN OF ECHINO-COCCUS...

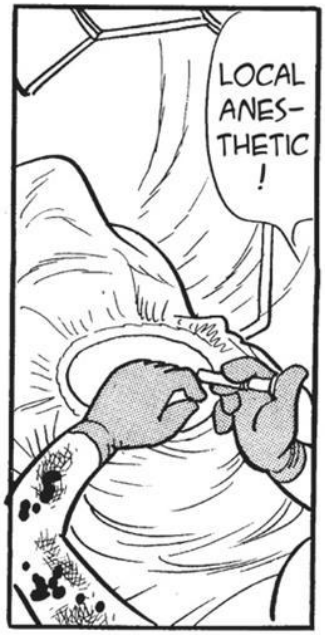

HATCHING IN THE INTESTINES, IT EATS THROUGH THE WALL, AND GOES ON A TEAR. IT OFTEN LODGES IN THE LUNGS OR THE LIVER.


VIA CANINE FECES, THE EGGS CAN CONTAMINATE VEGETABLES AND GRASS AND FIND THEIR WAY INTO HUMAN MOUTHS.
THE ECHINO-COCCUS IS A BREED OF TAPEWORM THAT CAN DWELL AS PARASITES IN THE INTESTINES OF DOGS, FOXES, WOLVES, ETC.

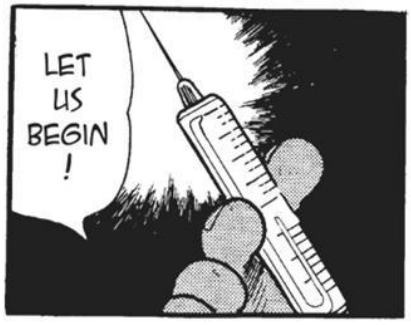

PERHAPS THE RED SPOTS AND THE FAMILY'S DEMISE OWE TO A BRAND-NEW MUTANT STRAIN OF ECHINOCOCCUS.
THE POISON IT EXCRETES OFTEN SENDS ITS HUMAN HOST INTO SHOCK.

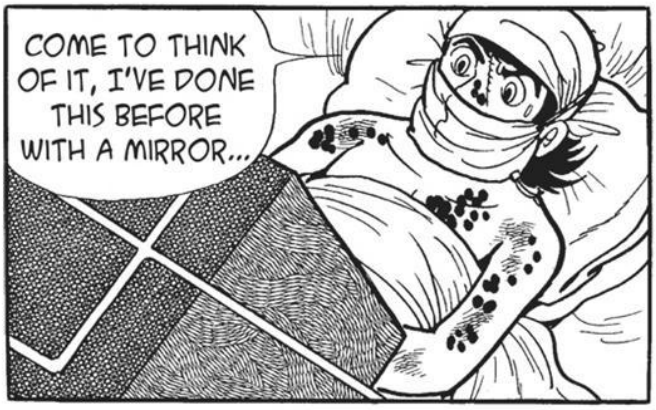
...

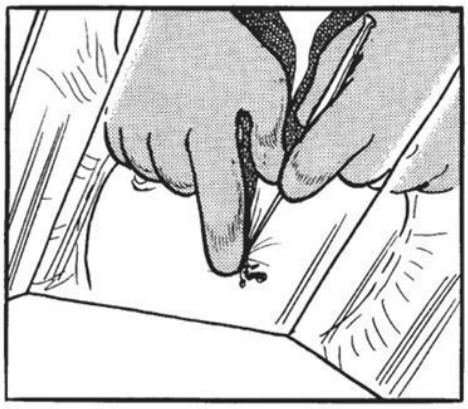



LOCAL ANES-THETIC !

FAR FROM STERILE. I HAVE NO CHOICE ...


LET US BEGIN !

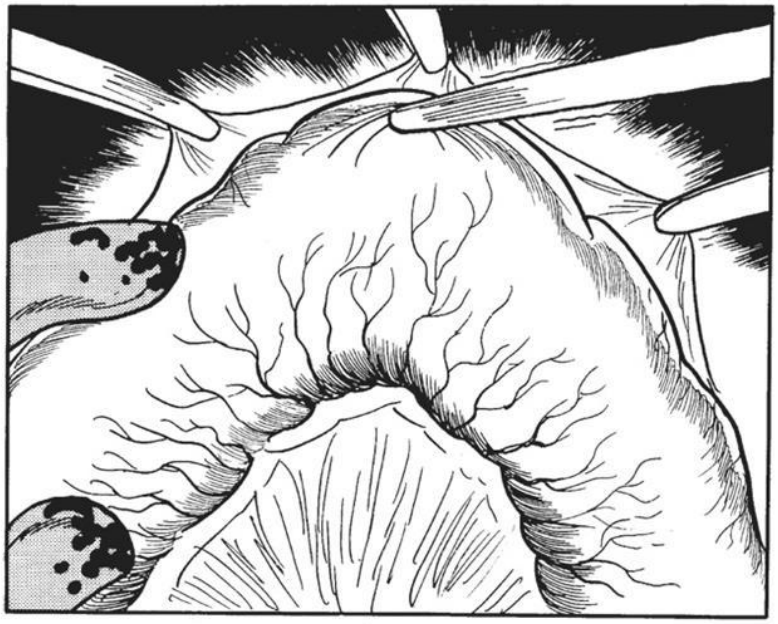

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE WITH A MIRROR...

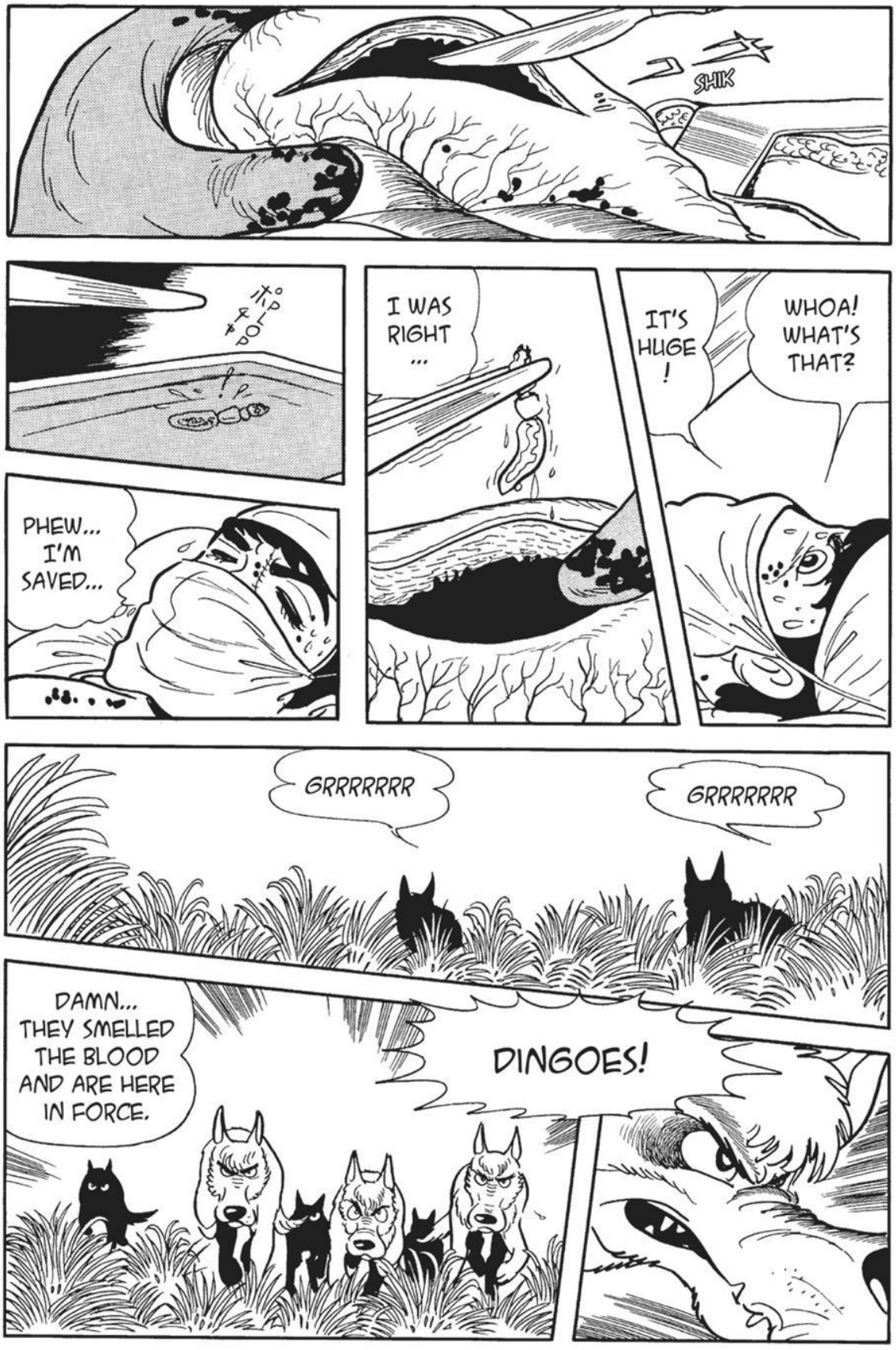


FUNNY. WHEN YOU'RE PREPARED TO DIE, FEAR AND PAIN VANISH.

AGH !

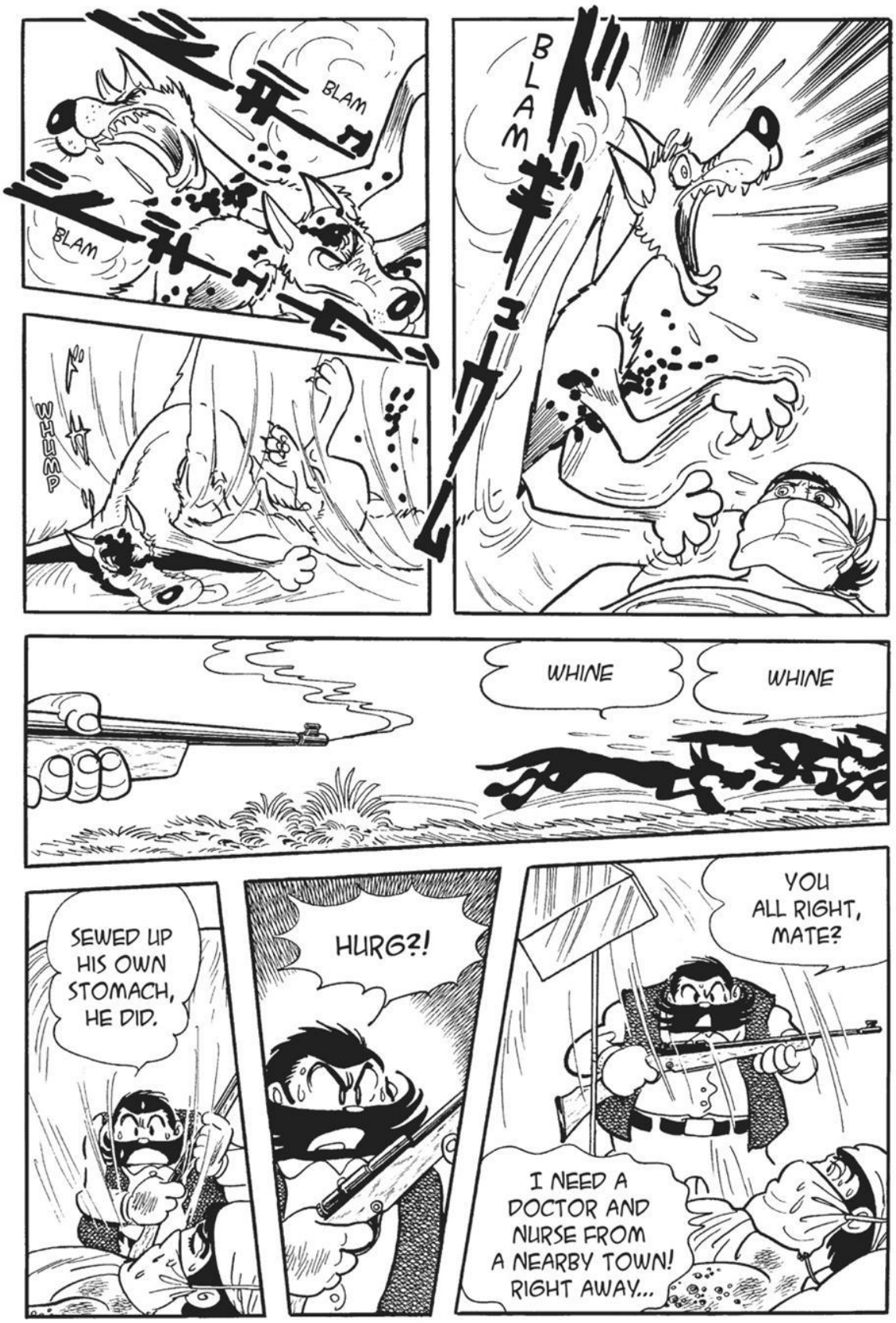
I'M UNDER THE PERITONEUM ...



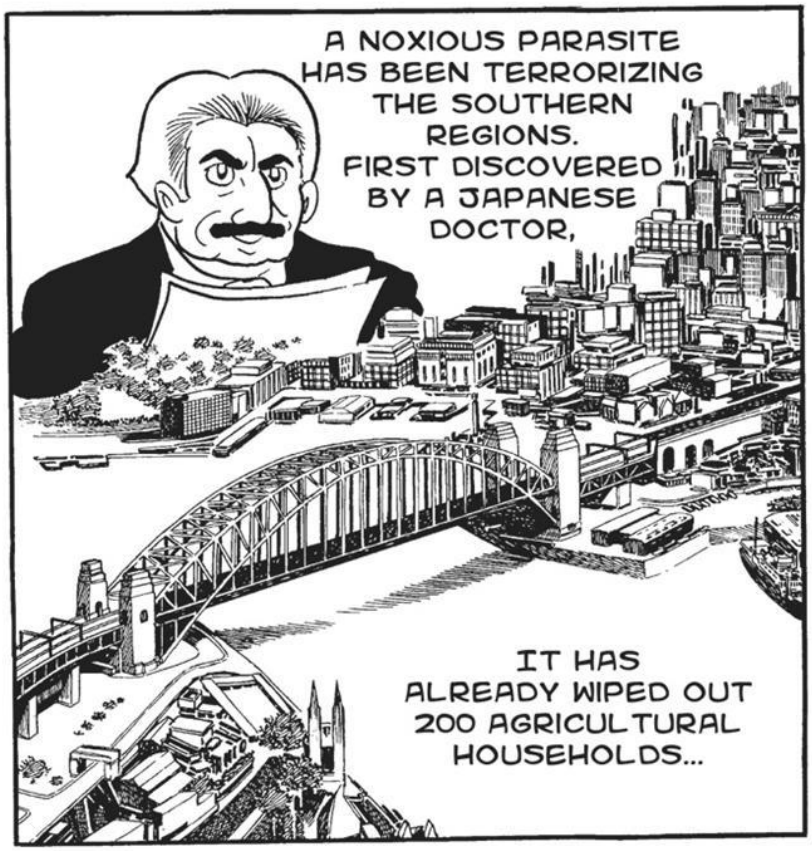

SHIK
PLOP
PLOP
PHEW... I'M SAVED...
I WAS RIGHT ...
IT'S HUGE !
WHOA! WHAT'S THAT?
GRRRRRRR
GRRRRRRR
DAMN... THEY SMELLED THE BLOOD AND ARE HERE IN FORCE.
DINGOES!

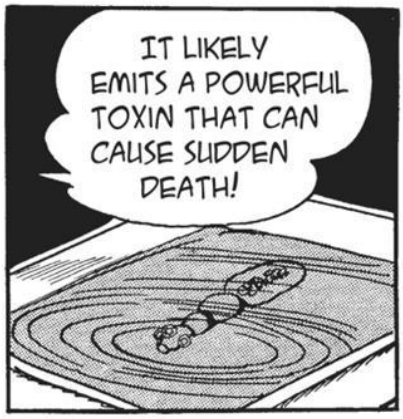
STAY CALM... STAY CALM...
GRRRRR
PERHAPS THEY'RE THE CARRIERS !
WAIT, THE DINGOES ...
GRRROWL!
IF THEY ATTACK, IT'S ALL OVER.
JUST STAY BACK UNTIL THEN. STAY BACK, UNDERSTAND?
LISTEN UP, YOU MANGY MUTTS! I'LL PLAY WITH YOU AS SOON AS MY OPERATION'S DONE!
WHINE!
YOU ASKED FOR IT!

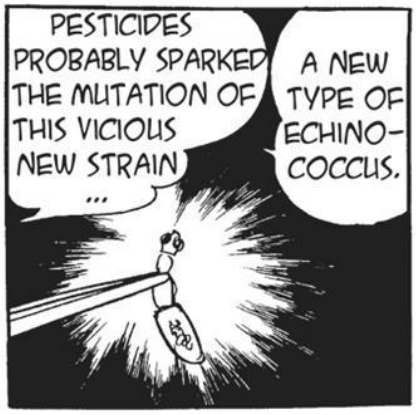
YIP! YIP!
I'M ALMOST DONE SUTURING! CAN'T YOU WAIT A MINUTE?
WRONG CHOICE !
GRRRRRR
GRRRRRR
GRWWWLL
AAAAH!
RRRRRIP


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHUMP
WHINE
WHINE
SEWED UP HIS OWN STOMACH, HE DID.
HURG?!
YOU ALL RIGHT, MATE?
I NEED A DOCTOR AND NURSE FROM A NEARBY TOWN! RIGHT AWAY...

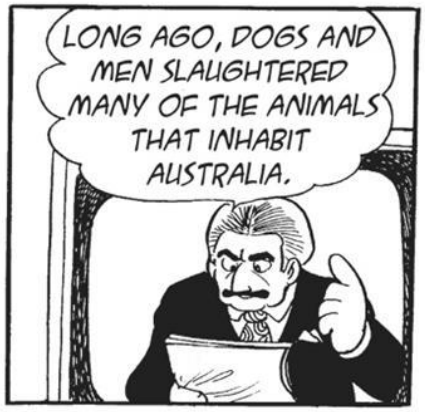
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
シドニー大学

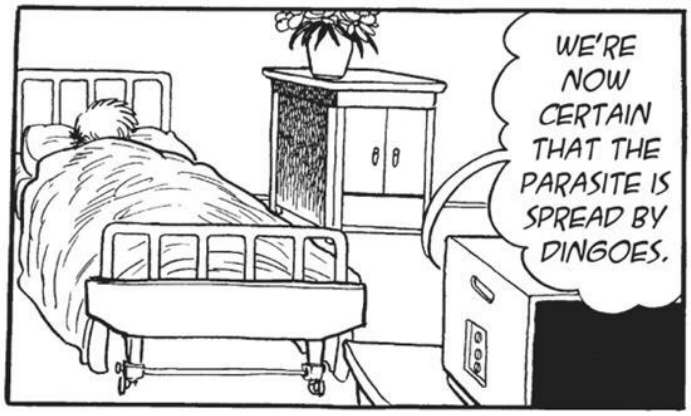

A NOXIOUS PARASITE HAS BEEN TERRORIZING THE SOUTHERN REGIONS. FIRST DISCOVERED BY A JAPANESE DOCTOR,
IT HAS ALREADY WIPED OUT 200 AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS...

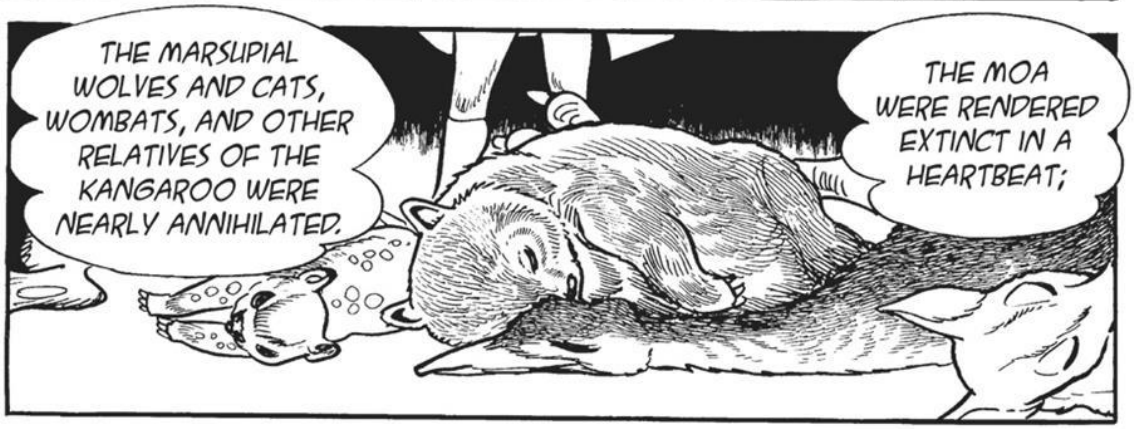

IT LIKELY EMITS A POWERFUL TOXIN THAT CAN CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH!


PESTICIDES PROBABLY SPARKED THE MUTATION OF THIS VICIOUS NEW STRAIN ...
A NEW TYPE OF ECHINO-COCCUS.

LOOK !

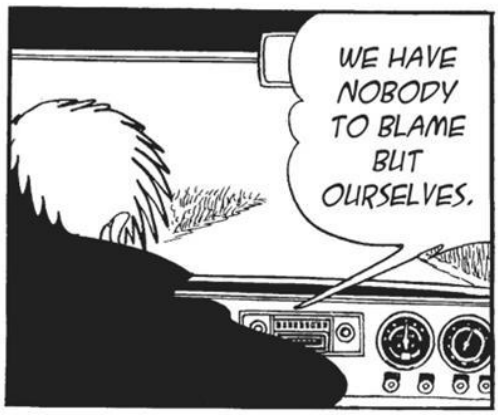

LONG AGO, DOGS AND MEN SLAUGHTERED MANY OF THE ANIMALS THAT INHABIT AUSTRALIA.


WE'RE NOW CERTAIN THAT THE PARASITE IS SPREAD BY DINGOES.


THE MARSUPIAL WOLVES AND CATS, WOMBATS, AND OTHER RELATIVES OF THE KANGAROO WERE NEARLY ANNIHILATED.
THE MOA WERE RENDERED EXTINCT IN A HEARTBEAT;

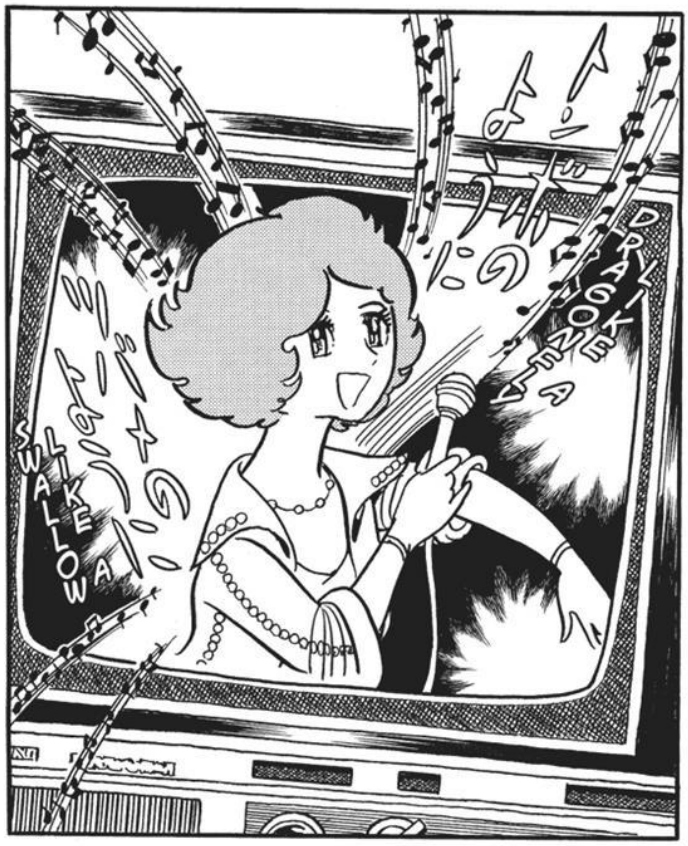
HOW STUPID ARE WE? WE KNOW VERY WELL, AND WE'RE STILL AT IT.

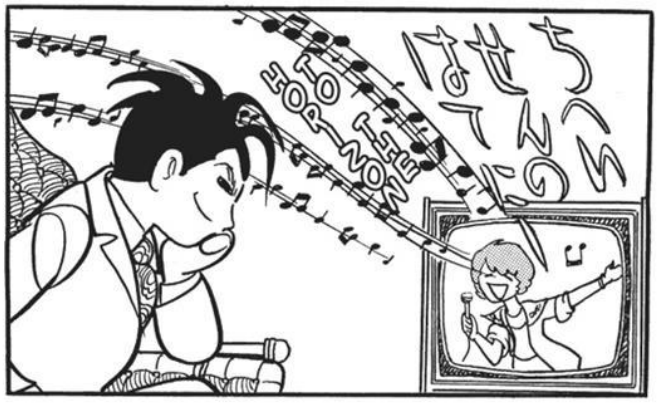
BRING DEATH NOW TO THEIR FORMER MASTERS.
THE DOGS WE HUMANS BROUGHT TO THIS LAND...

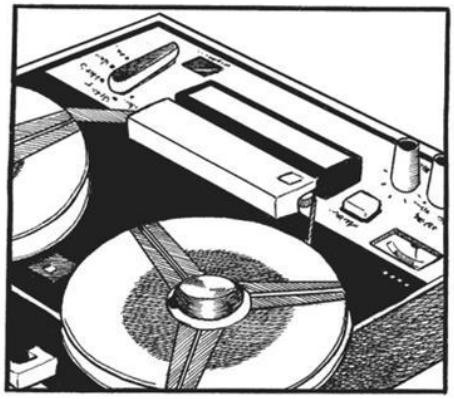

WE HAVE NOBODY TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES.

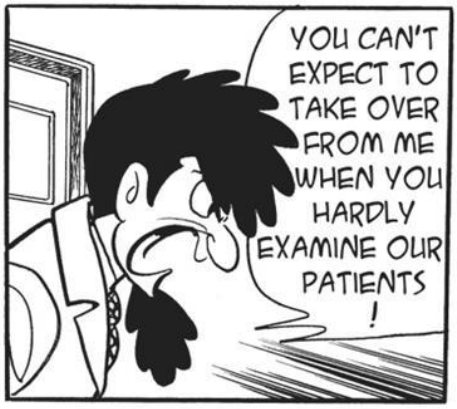
YOUR MISTAKE!

RIGHT TO YOUR HEART


DRINK
SWALLOW


NOW FOR TO THE




YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO TAKE OVER FROM ME WHEN YOU HARDLY EXAMINE OUR PATIENTS !

SON! INSTEAD OF MAKING YOUR ROUNDS, YOU'RE LISTENING TO THAT SINGER AGAIN?

WE CAN'T LOSE THEIR TRUST !
YOU'D BETTER ...
AS SOON AS THIS IS OVER.

OKAY, DAD, OKAY!
ALL I EVER THINK OF IS YOUR FUTURE, AND YET...

EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR... ABOUT THE INJECTION FOR THE PATIENT IN ROOM 3...

THE TWO OF US

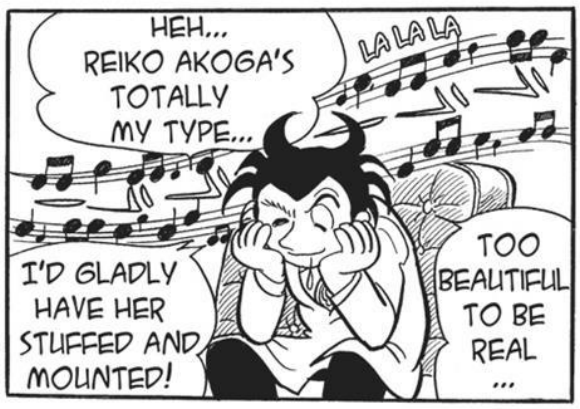
HMPH.

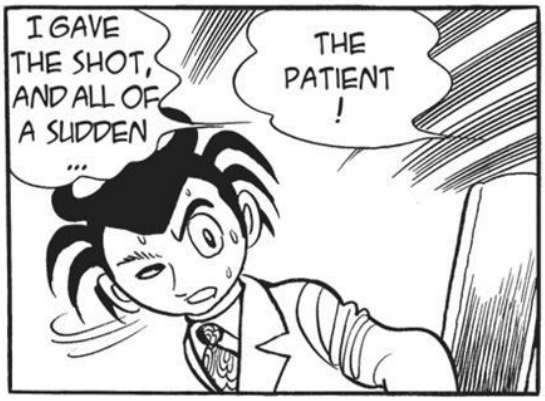
I SAID I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW !

ARG...

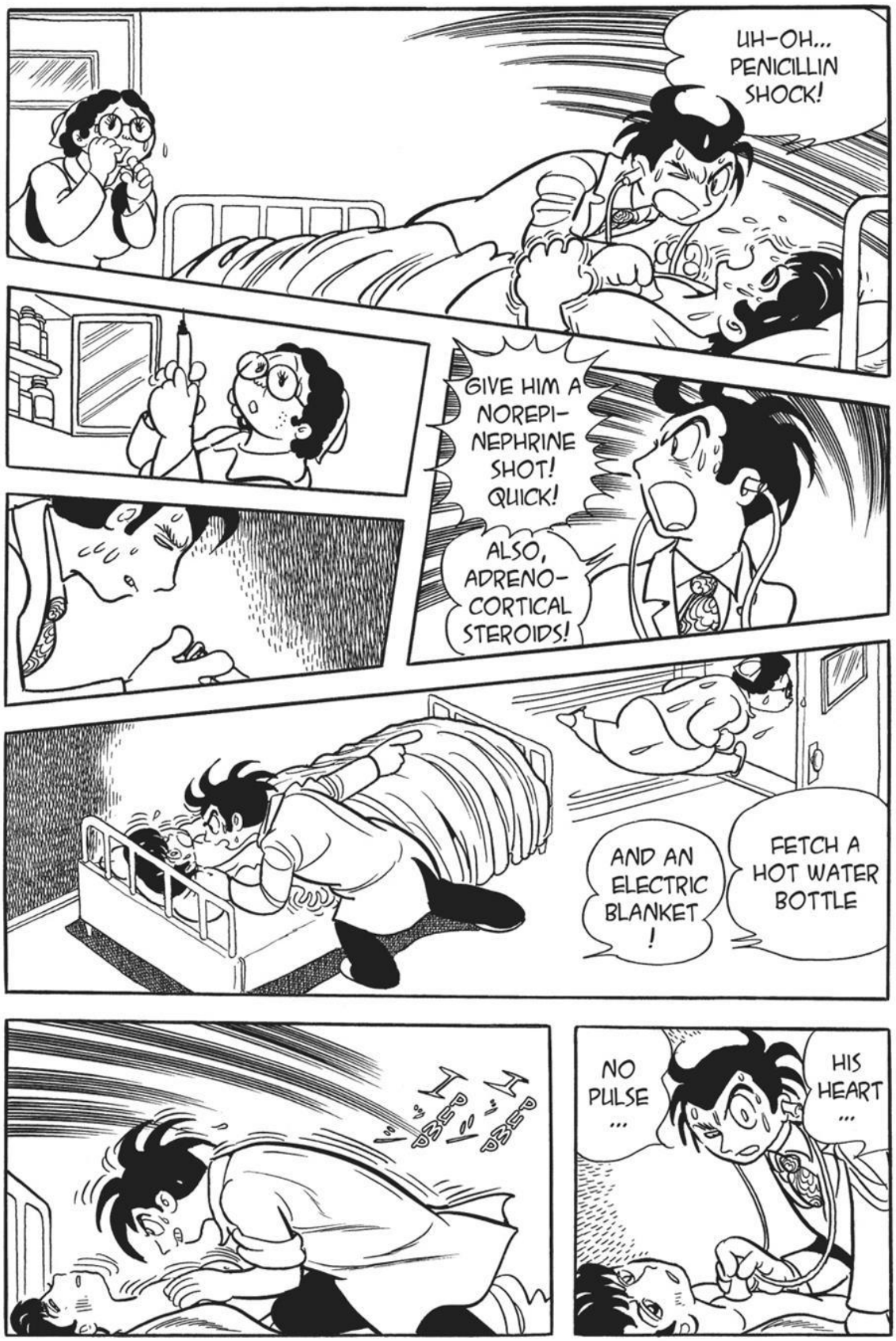
GIVE HIM, UH, 20,000 UNITS OF PENICILLIN, OKAY?

GIVE HIM TETRACYCLINE OR SOMETHING !
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY ?
HUH ?
BUT YOU SAID NOT TO ADMINISTER TETRACYCLINE BECAUSE IT STOPPED WORKING...





NOTE: REIKO AKOGA, FAMILY NAME FIRST IN THE ORIGINAL, PUNS ON THE JAPANESE WORD "AKOGARE" (*LONGING OR YEARNING*).

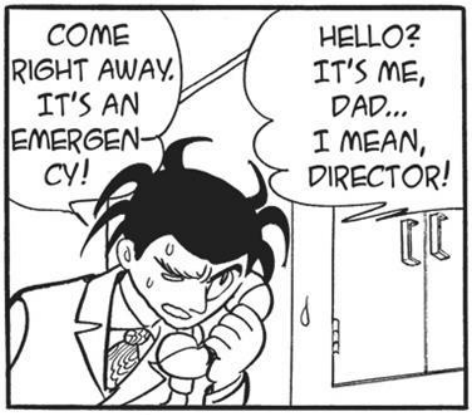

UH-OH... PENICILLIN SHOCK!
GIVE HIM A NOREPI-NEPHRINE SHOT! QUICK!
ALSO, ADRENO-CORTICAL STEROIDS!
FETCH A HOT WATER BOTTLE
AND AN ELECTRIC BLANKET !
BEEP
BEEP
NO PULSE ...
HIS HEART ...

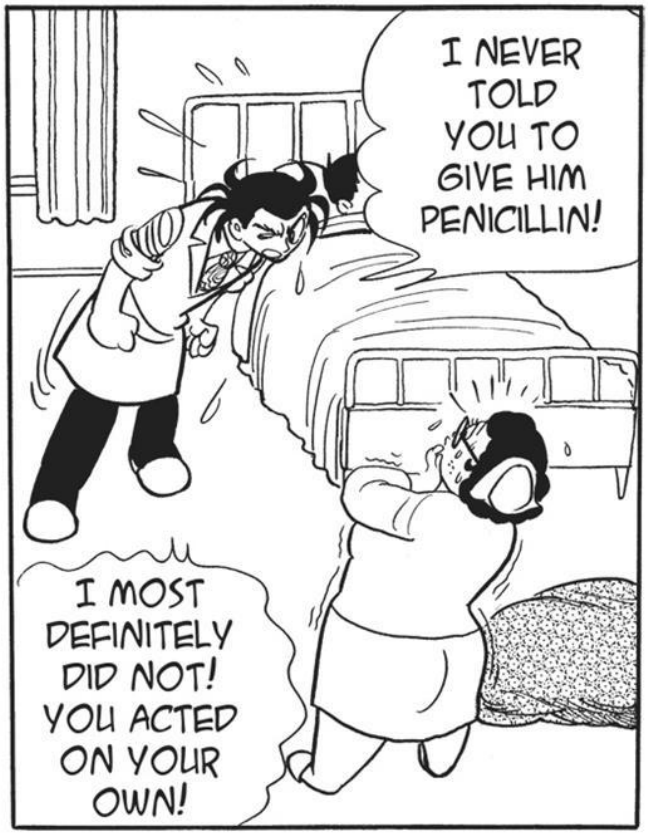
...
IT'S NO USE...

WHY...? YOU TOLD ME TO, DOCTOR...
WHY THE HELL DID YOU GIVE HIM PENICILLIN?!

HE'S DEAD.
I DON'T NEED NO ELECTRIC BLANKET.

B-BUT DOCTOR ...


COME RIGHT AWAY. IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
HELLO? IT'S ME, DAD... I MEAN, DIRECTOR!


I NEVER TOLD YOU TO GIVE HIM PENICILLIN!
I MOST DEFINITELY DID NOT! YOU ACTED ON YOUR OWN!

N-NO!
MISS YAMADA COMMITTED AN ERROR, CAUSING A PATIENT TO DIE OF SHOCK.
WHAT'S WRONG ?!

IT WAS HER!
WE KNEW SINCE HIS FIRST EXAM THAT THE PATIENT WAS ALLERGIC TO PENICILLIN. WHOSE BONEHEAD ERROR WAS IT?
PENICILLIN SHOCK.

NONSENSE! I TOLD YOU NO SUCH THING!
ENOUGH!

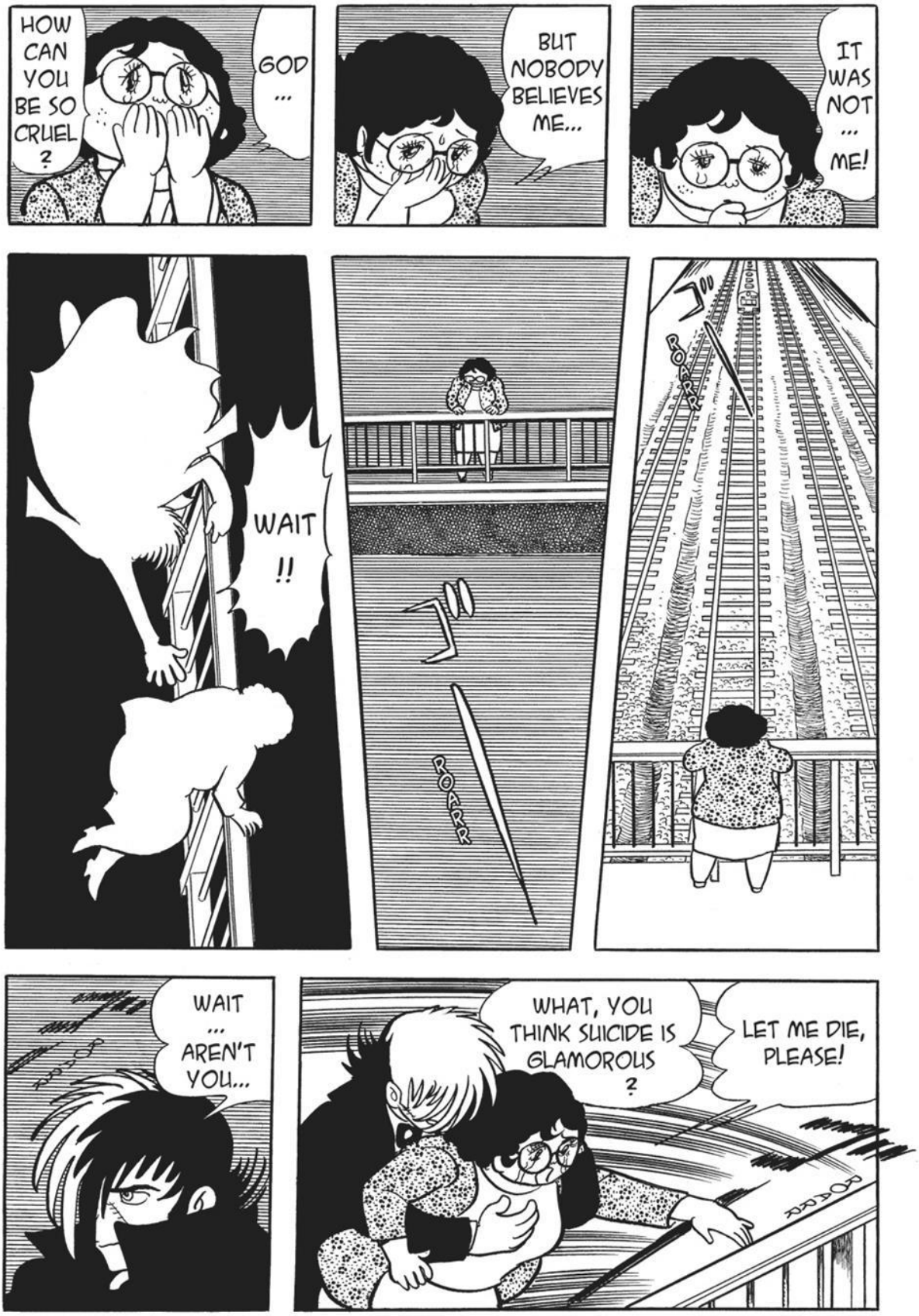
BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS TOLD TO.
I ADMINISTERED THE SHOT...

TO MY OFFICE, SON.

THERE'LL BE A CRIMINAL INVESTI-GATION. WE'LL LEARN THE TRUTH THEN!
INFORM THE PATIENT'S FAMILY.

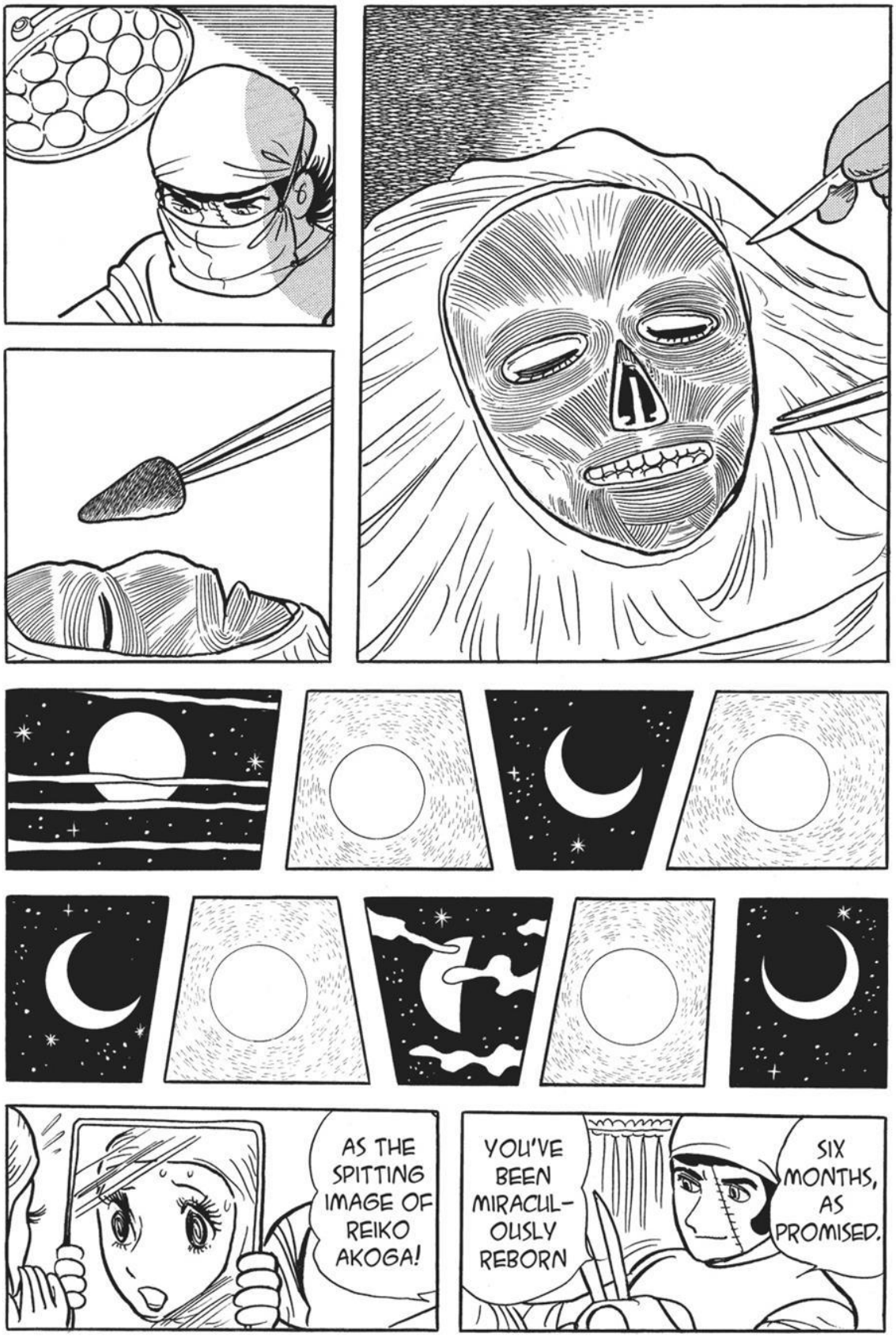
SILENCE!
BUT, IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?
CHARTS!
X-RAY NEGATIVES!
YOUR EXAM-ROUND NOTES!
LEAVE THE REST TO ME...
WE CAN'T TAKE ANY RISKS!
OUR REPUTATION IS AT STAKE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S A BLACK MARK AGAINST OUR HOSPITAL.
WE'LL INCINERATE EVERY SHRED OF EVIDENCE!
IT WASN'T ME, THOUGH.

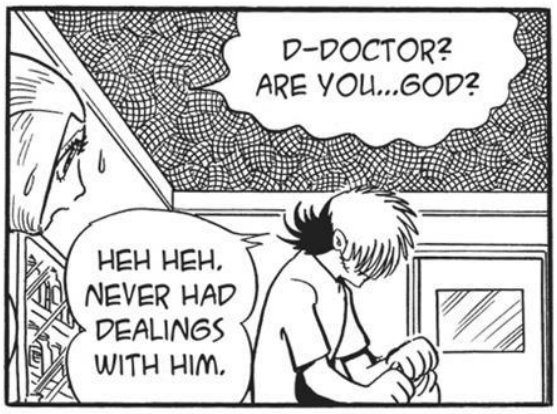
LIES...
NURSE COMMITS FATAL ERROR
死
看護婦注射ミス
LIES...
YES, I DID ADMINISTER THE INJECTION...
NO!
I...
NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THEY ALL... BLAME IT ON ME...

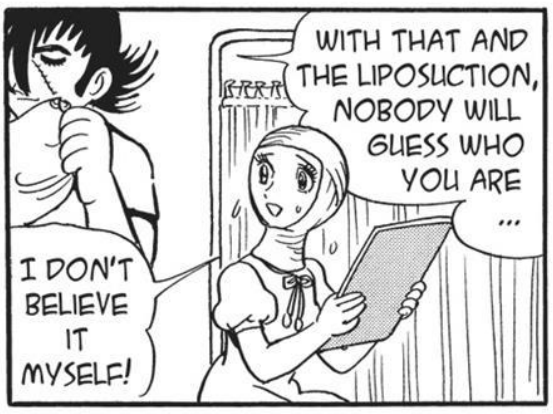

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL ?
GOD ...
BUT NOBODY BELIEVES ME...
IT WAS NOT ... ME!
WAIT !!
WAIT ... AREN'T YOU...
WHAT, YOU THINK SUICIDE IS GLAMOROUS ?
LET ME DIE, PLEASE!

RUMBLE
YOU WANT TO DIE TO ATONE FOR IT?
NO! I WANT TO DIE BECAUSE IT ISN'T FAIR!
RUMBLE
THE NURSE WHO WAS IN THE NEWS FOR MAKING AN ERROR?
HUH. TELL ME MORE.
THE DOCTORS PUT ALL THE BLAME ON ME...
RUMBLE
"SOB"
AFTER ALL, HE'S THE DIRECTOR'S SON.
ANY DIRT YOU GOT ON HIM?
THINK HARDER.
NOTHING COMES TO MIND...
HE ABSOLUTELY ADORES REIKO AKOGA, THE POP STAR.
HE WAS WATCHING HER CROON ON TV IN HIS OFFICE THAT DAY!
INTERESTING. IF YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT, WHY DIDN'T YOU WIN THE TRIAL?
SNIFF クスン クスン
I CAN'T PROVE THAT HE TOLD ME TO DO IT.
THERE'S NO EVIDENCE.

HA HA HA! HA HA HA HA!
WA HA HA HA HA HA! HA HA HA!
REIKO AKOGA?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
HOO HOO HOO HOO!
HE'S CRAZY ABOUT HER?
NOTHING! NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT IT.
YES, TOTALLY INFATUATED.
HO HO HO! HA HA HA!
HOW?
I'LL MAKE YOU A BELIEVER!
GIVE ME SIX MONTHS...
DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?
UM, NO.


AS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF REIKO AKOGA!
YOU'VE BEEN MIRACUL-OUSLY REBORN
SIX MONTHS, AS PROMISED.

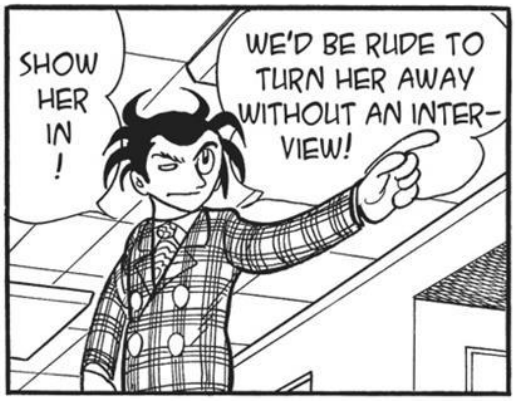

D-DOCTOR? ARE YOU...GOD?
HEH HEH. NEVER HAD DEALINGS WITH HIM.

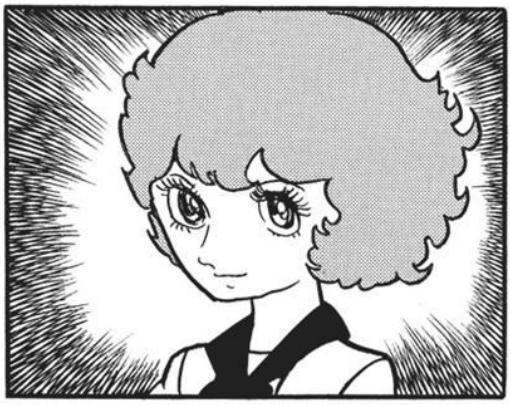

WITH THAT AND THE LIPOSUCTION, NOBODY WILL GUESS WHO YOU ARE ...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF!

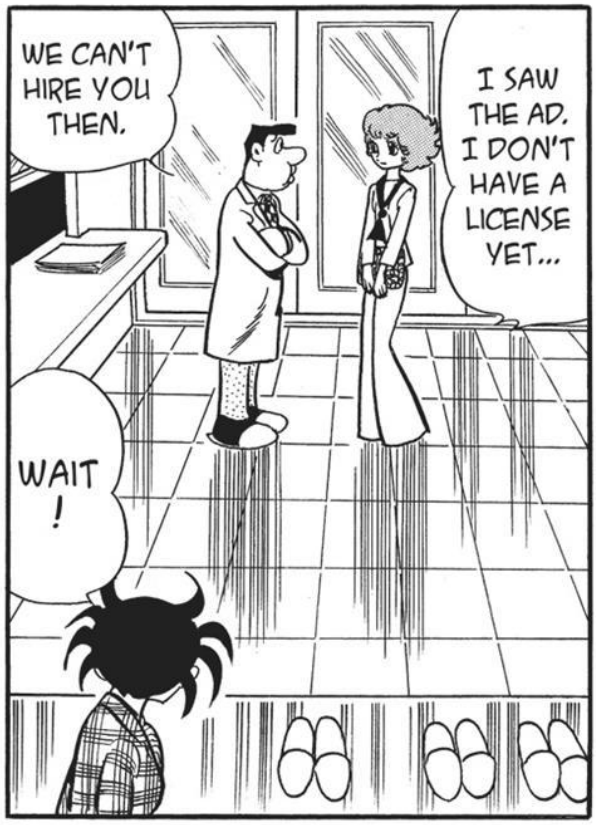
ALL RIGHT. ONCE YOU'RE HEALED, GO TO THAT HOSPITAL...

OH, YES!
I DO!

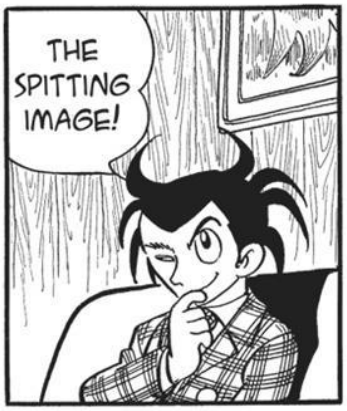
WITH THAT HOS-PITAL?
YOU STILL WANT TO GET EVEN, YES?

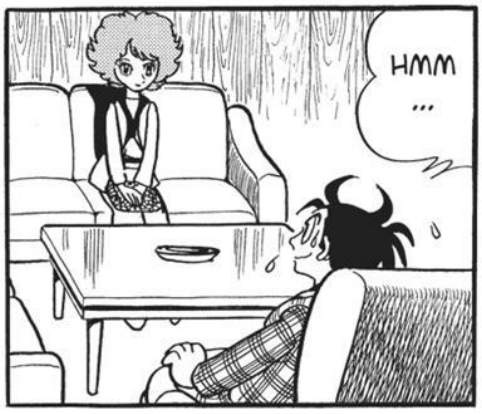

SHOW HER IN!
WE'D BE RUDE TO TURN HER AWAY WITHOUT AN INTER-VIEW!




WE CAN'T HIRE YOU THEN.
I SAW THE AD. I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE YET...
WAIT!

THUMP
THUMP


THE SPITTING IMAGE!

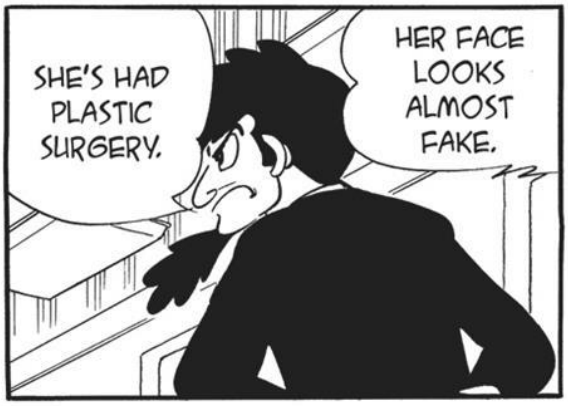

HMM ...

.....
FORGET NURSING. BE MY SECRETARY!
YOU'RE HIRED !

YOU'RE NOT RELATED?
THE MORE I LOOK, THE MORE YOU LOOK LIKE REIKO AKOGA.
I GET THAT A LOT!

DAD... SHE'S GOING TO BE MY SECRETARY !
SHE'D BE USELESS.
WHY'D YOU HIRE HER? SHE'S NOT A NURSE.

SON!


SHE'S HAD PLASTIC SURGERY.
HER FACE LOOKS ALMOST FAKE.

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
LISTEN, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HER...

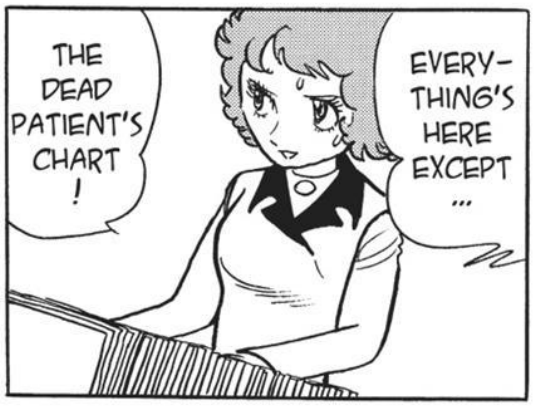
YOU THINK TOO MUCH.
SPARE ME, DAD!
TRUST ME, I HAVE AN EYE FOR WOMEN.

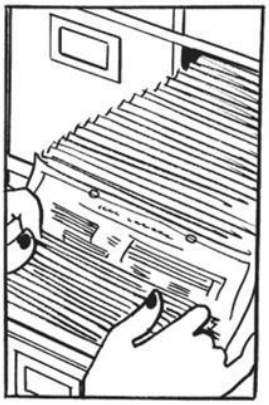
THIRD, NO LICENSE MEANS SHE'S HIDING WHO SHE IS.

AND SHE STRODE DOWN THE HALL LIKE SHE'S NO STRANGER HERE.

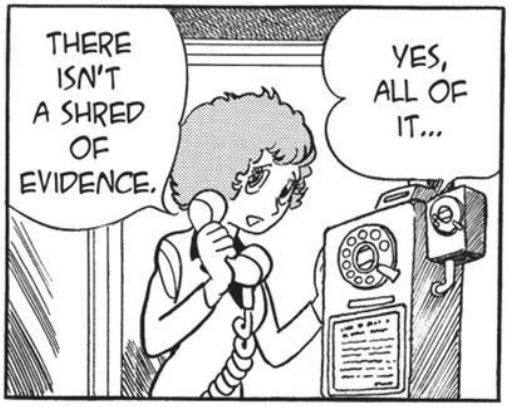
I'LL PUT THIS DRAWER IN ORDER.
PLEASE DO.

FILE THESE AWAY FOR ME, PLEASE.


THE DEAD PATIENT'S CHART !
EVERY-THING'S HERE EXCEPT ...



SOME-THING THEY'VE OVER-LOOKED.
A WILY OPPONENT. BUT THERE HAS TO BE
THINK CAREFULLY !


THERE ISN'T A SHRED OF EVIDENCE.
YES, ALL OF IT...

START

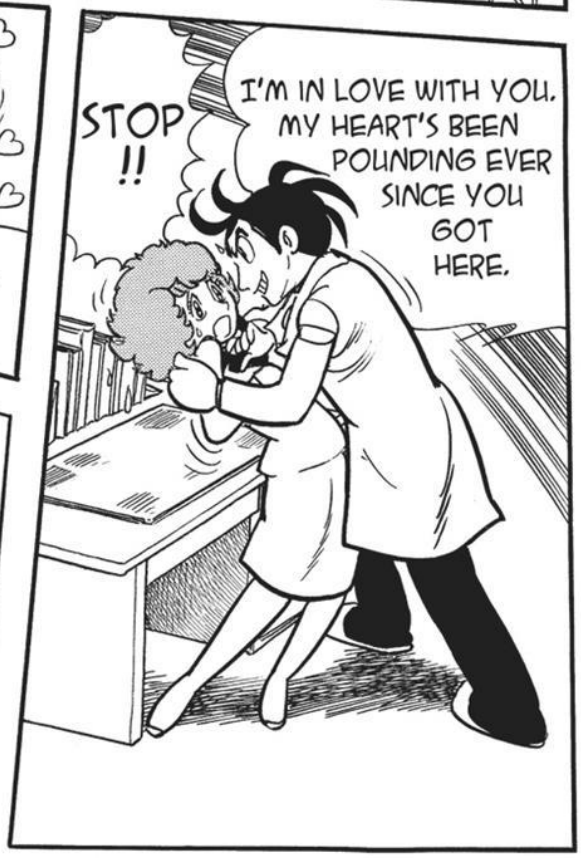
A HINT ...

SOME-THING THEY'VE OVER-LOOKED.
HOW DO I FIND IT?

C'MON... YOU'RE A REAL FOX, YOU KNOW?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP.
HEY, HOW 'BOUT A DATE TONIGHT?

NO!
GIMME A KISS!

I'M WILD ABOUT YOU, REIKO!
YOU'RE CONFUSED. I'M NOT REIKO AKOGA!

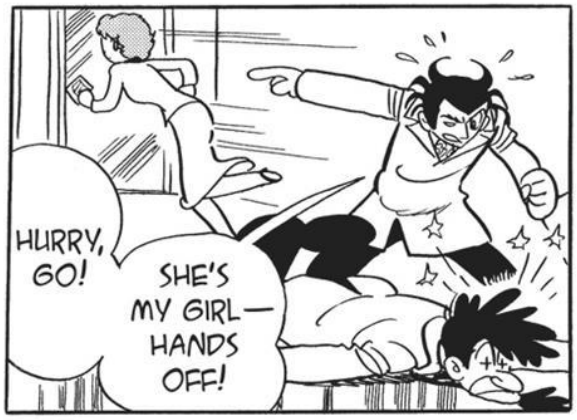

STOP !!
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU. MY HEART'S BEEN POUNDING EVER SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

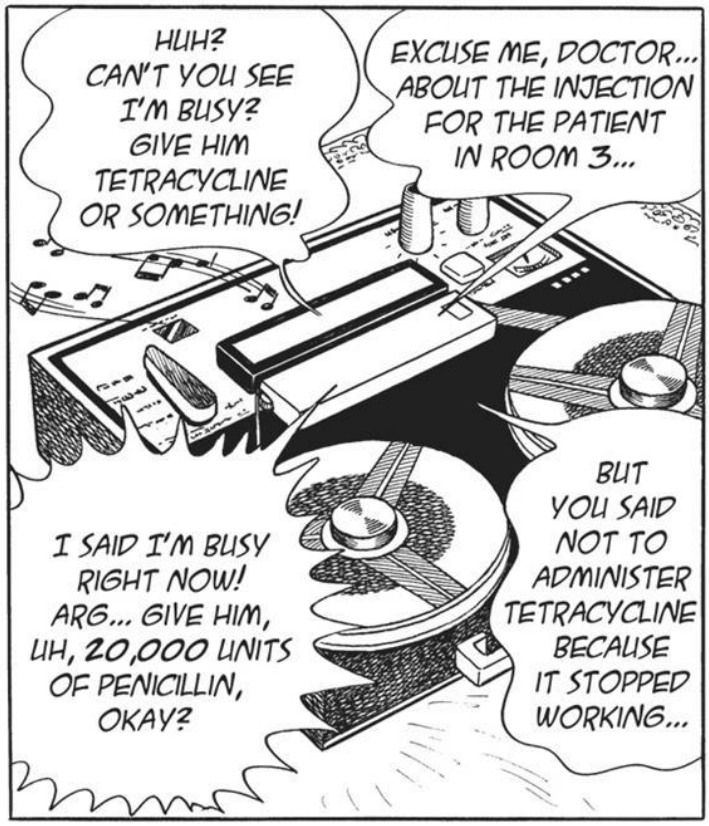
THAT DAY WHEN I WENT INTO HIS OFFICE, HE WAS RECORDING HER VOICE...
!
RIGHT, REIKO AKOGA!
I'M NOT REIKO!
DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT, REIKO?
I'D BE HAPPY TO GO OUT WITH YOU TONIGHT.
NO NEED TO BE SO PUSHY...
YES ?!
SURE THING !
COULD I HAVE ONE OF YOUR REIKO AKOGA RECORD-INGS, DOC-TOR?
HEH HEH HEH. ANYTHING FOR YOU!
DO ME ONE FAVOR.
BUT ...
...
LOOK AT HOW MANY TAPES I HAVE.
CHECK THIS OUT!
TAKE YOUR PICK.

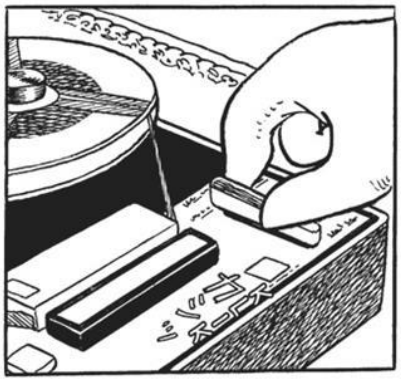
YES! THAT'S THE ONE!
SO... MANY.
I'LL BE BACK!
HEY, WAIT!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE!
GASP
COULD IT BE? THIS TAPE ...

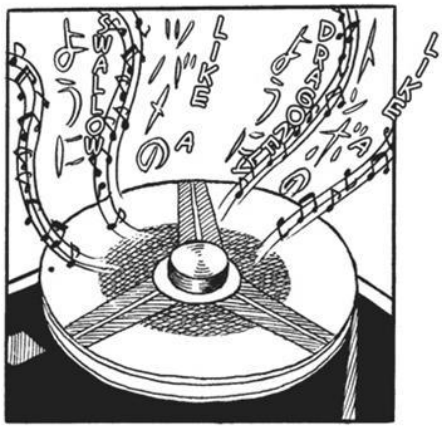
YOU HAD YOUR FACE CHANGED, TO COME BACK HERE ...
YOU'RE THAT NURSE!
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO? I THINK I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
COME TO MY OFFICE.
LET GO!!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY! I KNOW EXACTLY WHY YOU CAME HERE.
LET ME GO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
AIEEE
ゴキーン
KRAK
DAD?! I CAN'T LET THIS GO EVEN IF IT'S YOU!

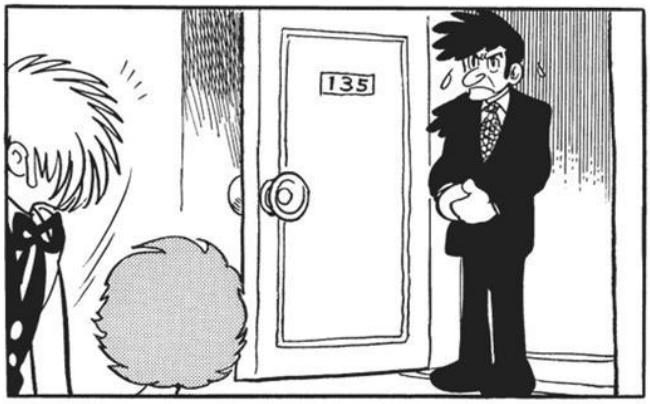
IDIOT!
HOW STUPID CAN YOU GET?!


HURRY, GO!
SHE'S MY GIRL— HANDS OFF!


HUH? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY? GIVE HIM TETRACYCLINE OR SOMETHING!
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR... ABOUT THE INJECTION FOR THE PATIENT IN ROOM 3...
I SAID I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW! ARG... GIVE HIM, UH, 20,000 UNITS OF PENICILLIN, OKAY?
BUT YOU SAID NOT TO ADMINISTER TETRACYCLINE BECAUSE IT STOPPED WORKING...



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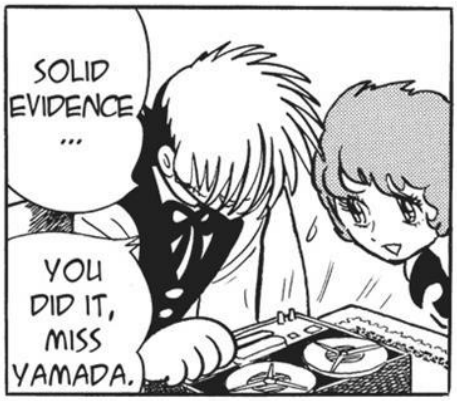
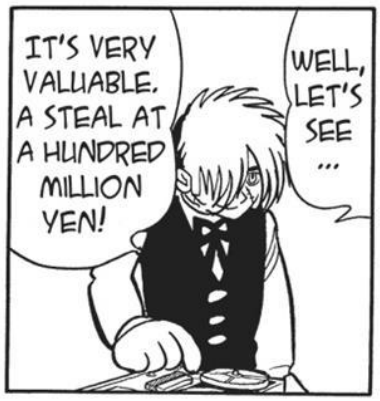
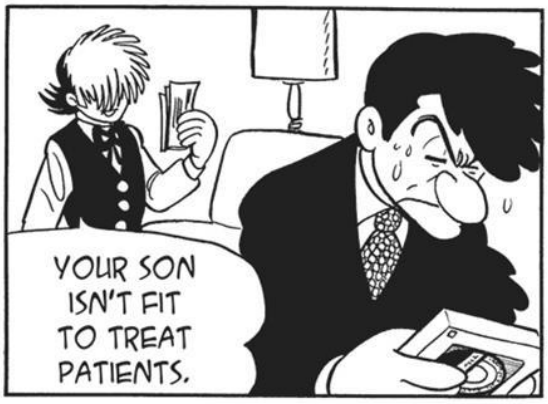

SOLID EVIDENCE...
YOU DID IT, MISS YAMADA.

DAMN ...
FINE. I'LL TAKE IT.

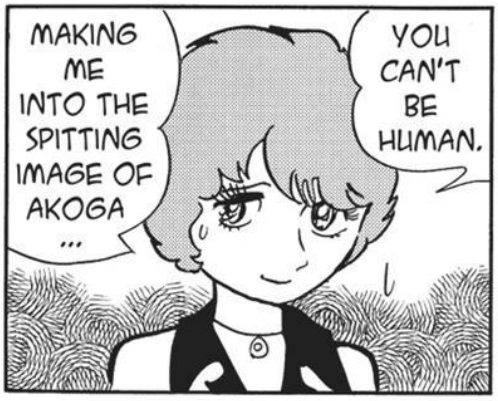

WELL, LET'S SEE ...
IT'S VERY VALUABLE. A STEAL AT A HUNDRED MILLION YEN!

HOW MUCH FOR THAT TAPE?

DO YOU STILL THINK I'M GOD ?
NO, DOCTOR. YOU'RE A DEVIL ...

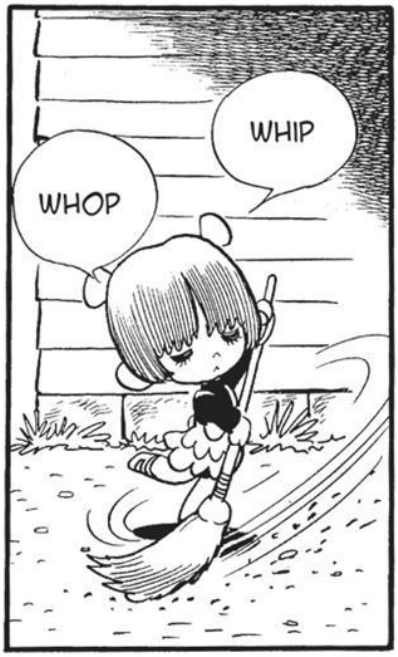

YOUR SON ISN'T FIT TO TREAT PATIENTS.

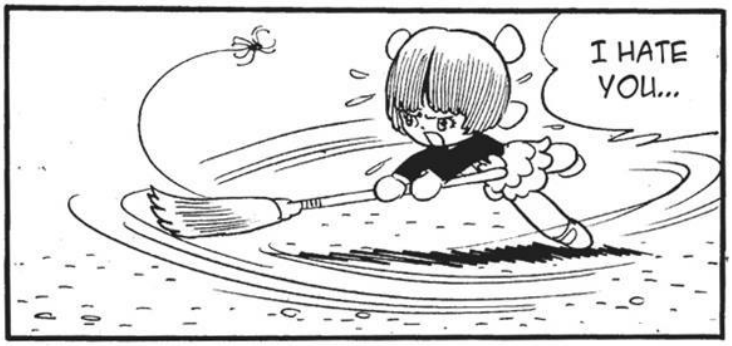
I'M THE ONE WHO DID AKOGA'S FACE.


YOU CAN'T BE HUMAN.
MAKING ME INTO THE SPITTING IMAGE OF AKOGA ...

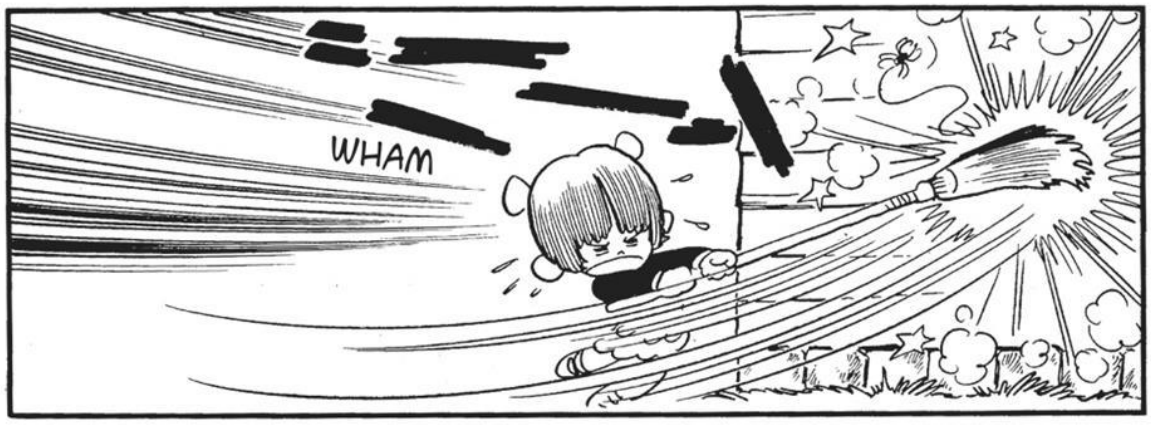
AH, THAT. IT WAS EASY!

THE ROBIN AND THE BOY

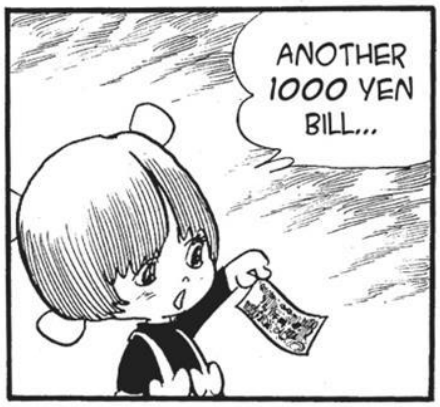


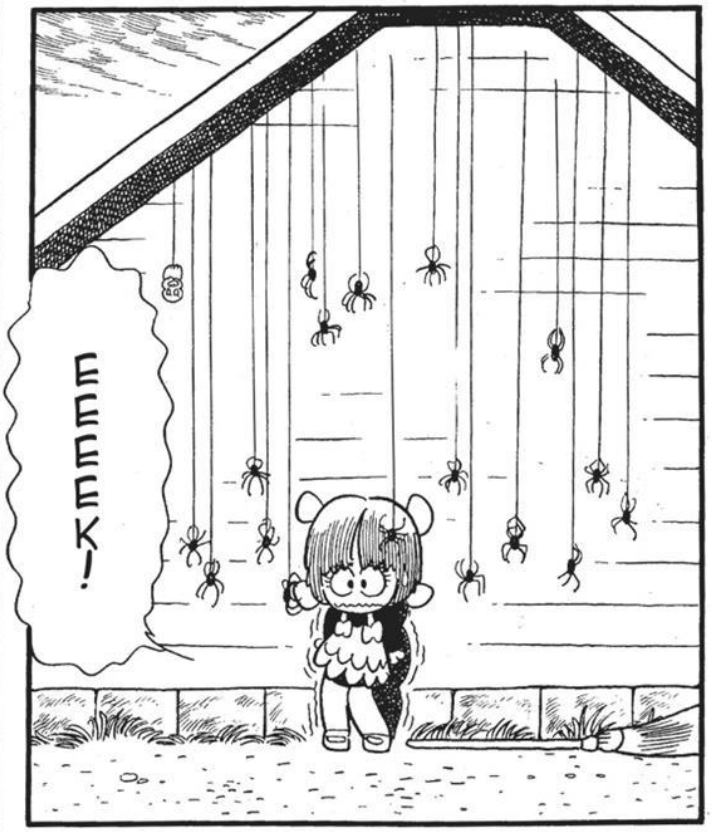


NOTE: "SHEE UNO ARAMANCHU" = THE PINOKO-ISM IS SECOND ONLY TO "ACCHONBURIKE" IN NOTORIETY AND OPACITY OF MEANING


WHAM

?


ANOTHER 1000 YEN BILL...

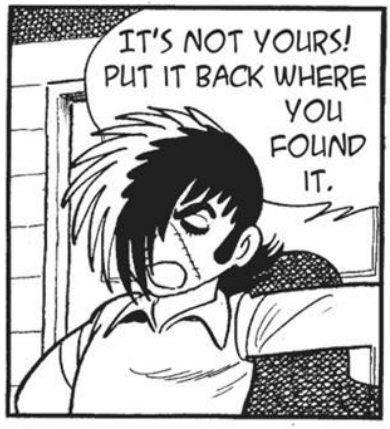

EEEEEK!

I FOUND MORE MONEY, DOCTOR.
WHAT'S THIS, THE YEAR-END CLEANUP ?

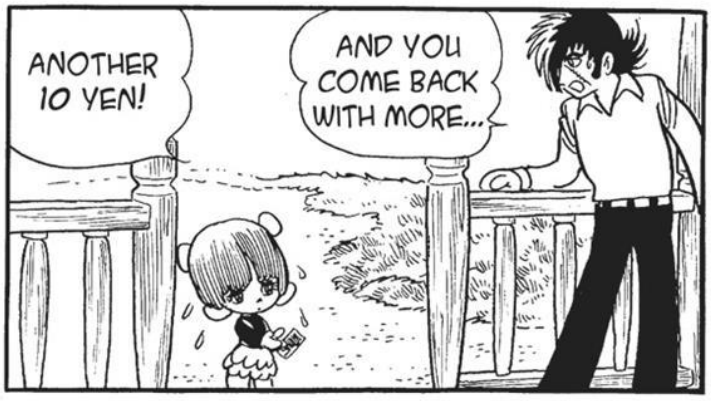
DID YOU JUST SMACK THE WALL?

BURIKE ACCHON
ONLY BEGGARS PICK UP AND POCKET MONEY.

IT WAS LOSHT!
BUT IT WASN'T LEFT THERE!


IT'S NOT YOURS! PUT IT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT.

A MYSH-TEWY...
YESTERDAY TOO. AND BEFORE THAT WAS 20 YEN. ONCE IT WAS 100 YEN.

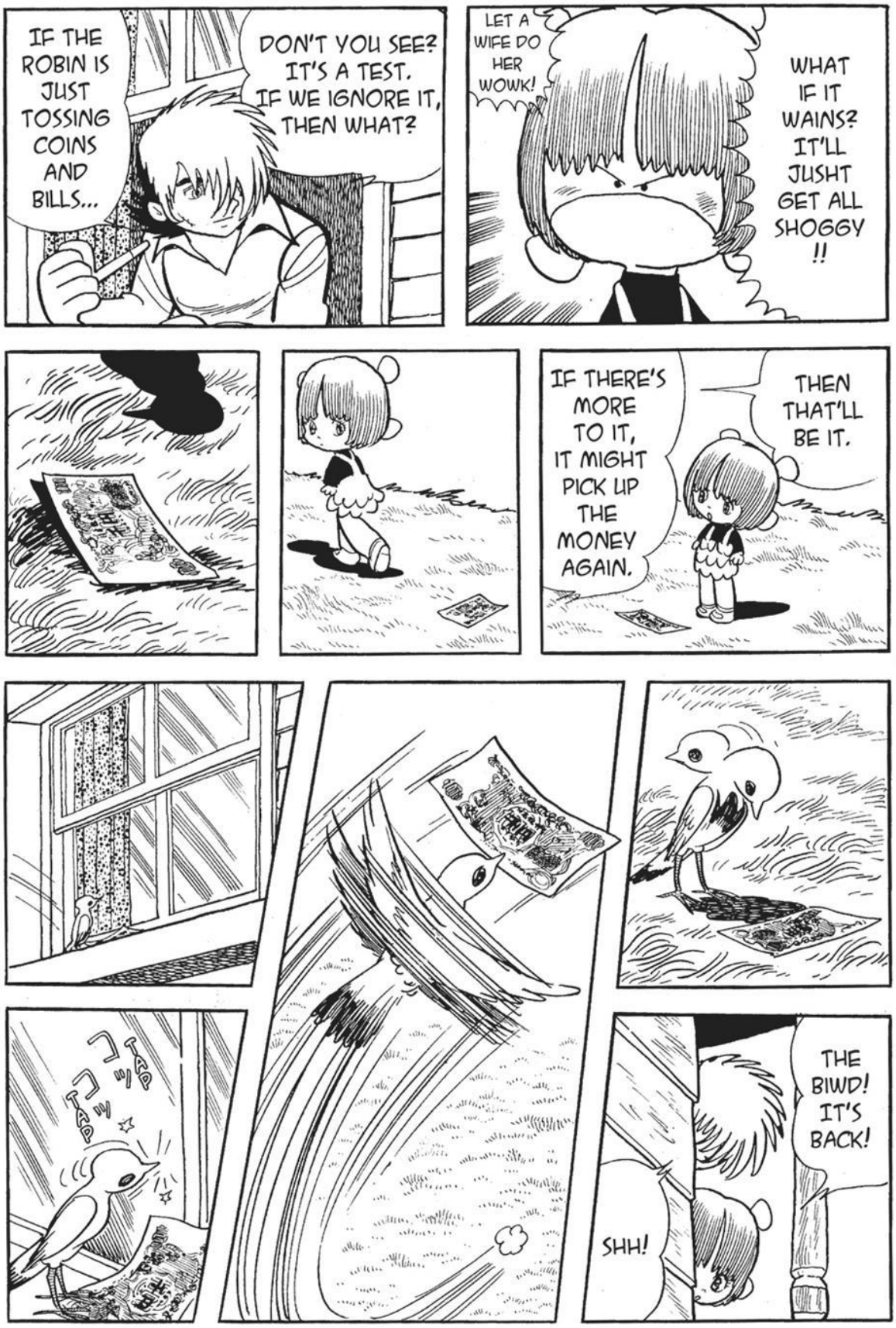

ANOTHER 10 YEN!
AND YOU COME BACK WITH MORE...

THE CULPRIT WHO'S BEEN DROPPING ALL THE MONEY!

I HAVE TO BANK UP TO BUY NEW YEAR TWEATS.
A GOOD WIFE NEVER WASHTES EVEN 10 YEN...

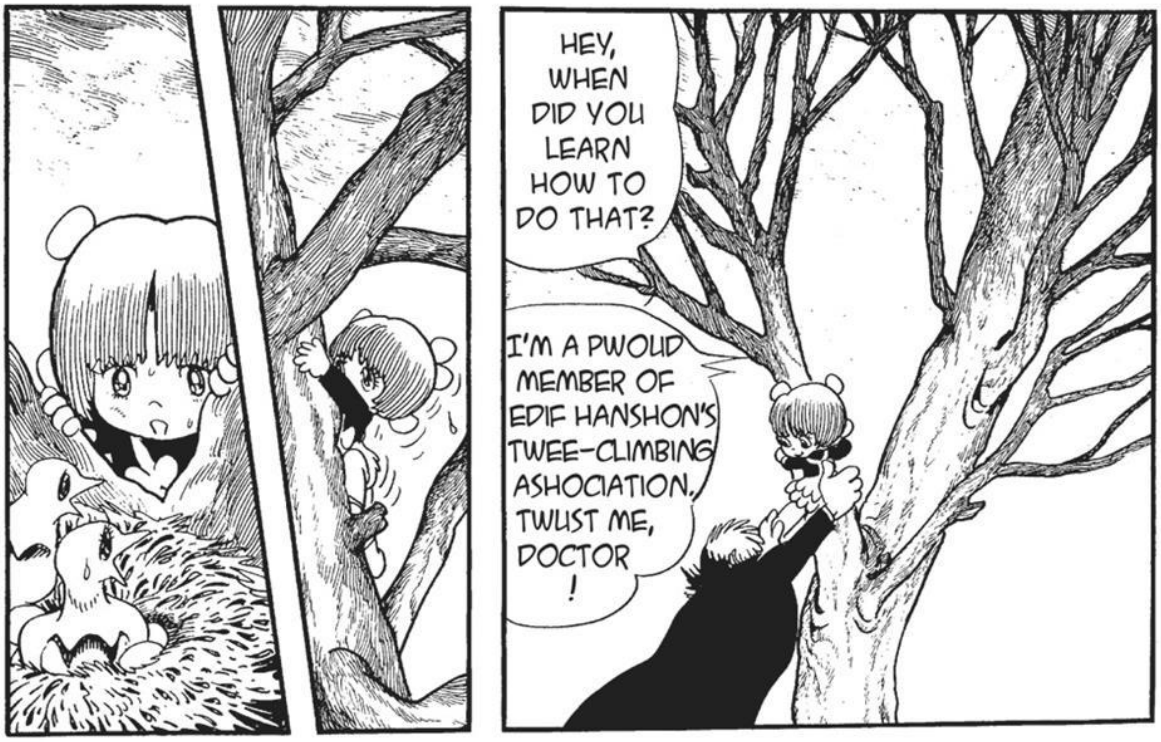
HEY, COME HERE AND SEE THIS!

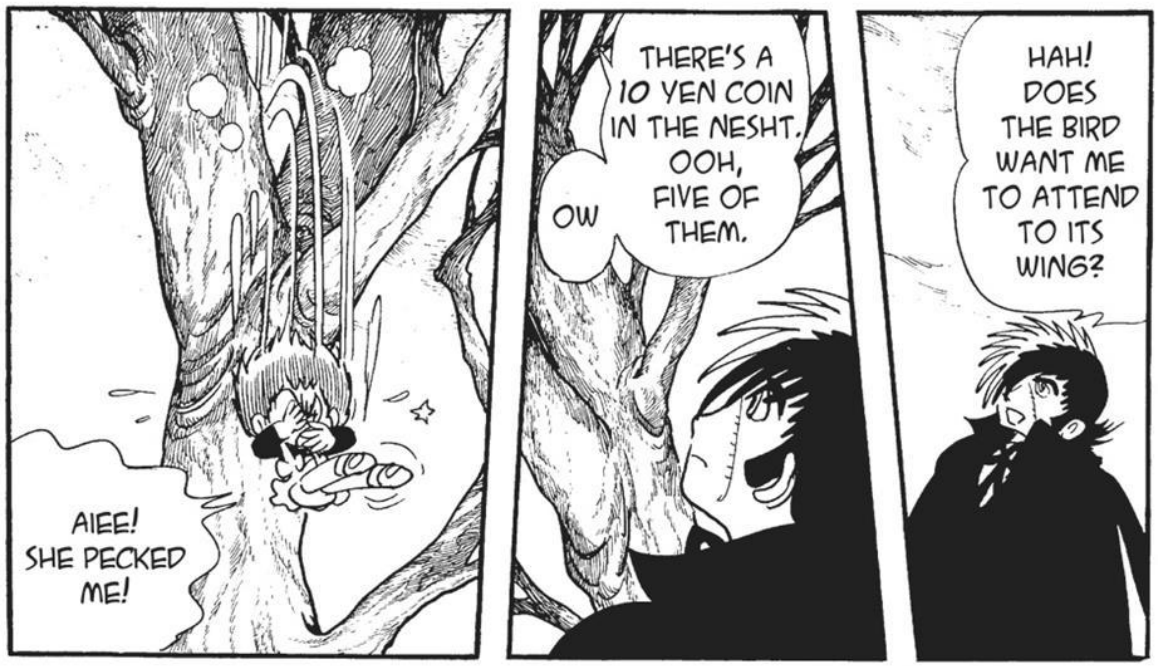
SHH
A BIWD!
IT LEFT A WHOLE BILL AGAIN...
IT'S A ROBIN, WHICH IS RARE ENOUGH. BUT THIS IS DECEMBER. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SUMMER BIRDS...
IT MUST BE WICH!
THAT MUST BE IT...
WAIT, SHO THAT BIWD DROPS THE MONEY EVEWY DAY?
LEAVE IT!
WE'RE UP TO 5,520 YEN...


IF THE ROBIN IS JUST TOSSING COINS AND BILLS...
DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S A TEST. IF WE IGNORE IT, THEN WHAT?
LET A WIFE DO HER WOWK!
WHAT IF IT WAINS? IT'LL JUSHT GET ALL SHOGGY !!
IF THERE'S MORE TO IT, IT MIGHT PICK UP THE MONEY AGAIN.
THEN THAT'LL BE IT.
THE BIWD! IT'S BACK!
SHH!

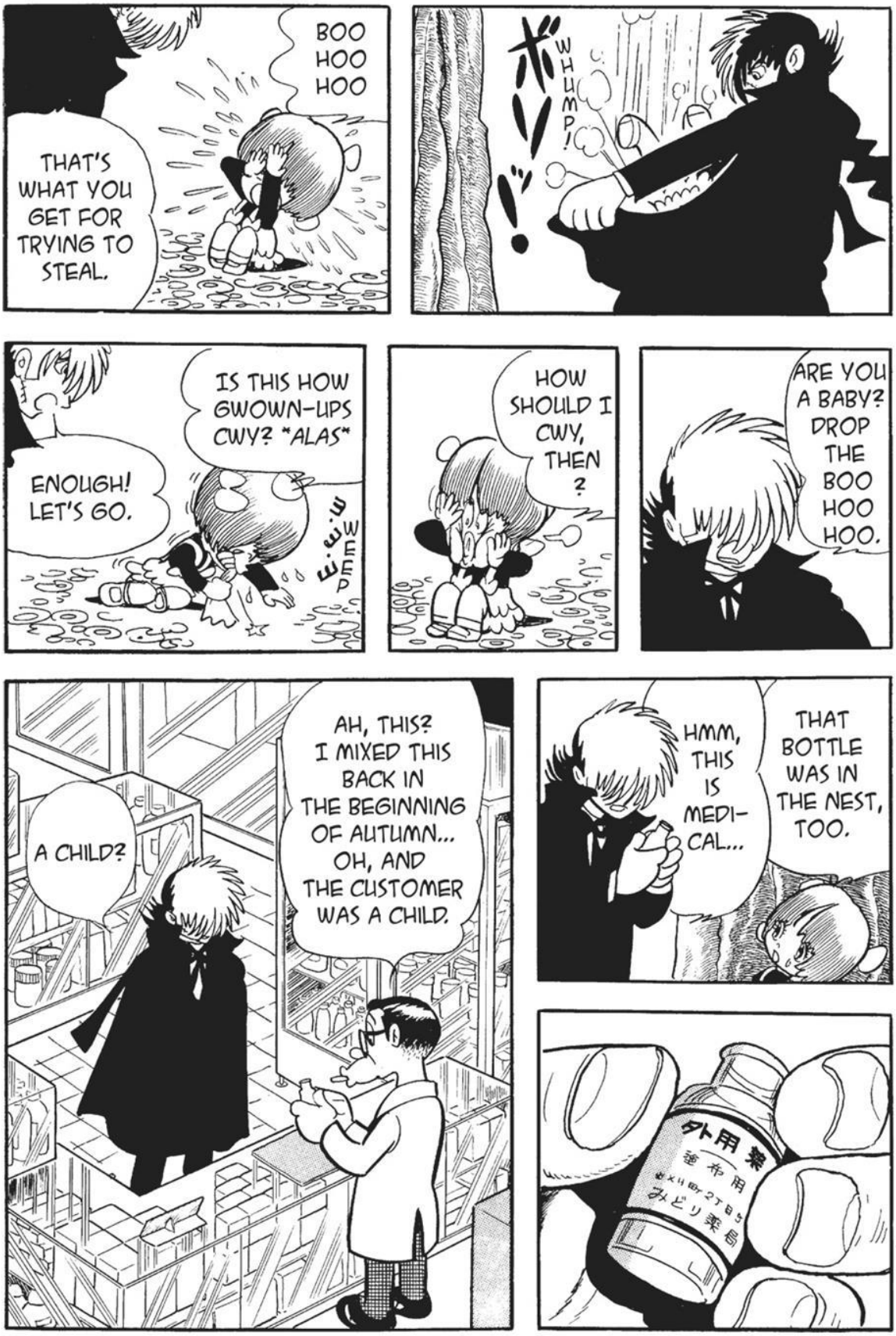
HUH. IT IS BRINGING IT TO US.
DOCTOR! ANOTHER 10 YEN COIN!
TAP
TAP
WE'LL LET IT IN. YOU'LL SEE...
CAN WOBINS TALK?!
THEY SAY ROBINS BRING HAPPINESS, BUT MONEY? NEVER HEARD THAT ONE.
WHAT BUSINESS DOES IT HAVE WITH US?
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO ASK!
CHIRP
?

?
CHIRP
!
!
WHAT IF WE LOSE THE FWEAD?
THEN WE'LL JUST START OVER AGAIN.
AH. IT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.
WE'LL FOLLOW THAT THREAD AND FIND OUT WHERE IT LIVES, WHAT IT'S UP TO.





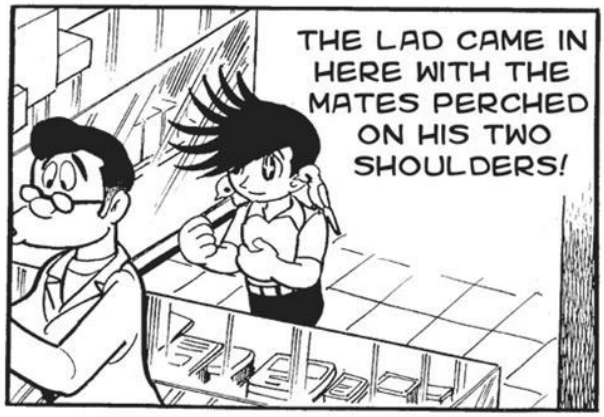
NOTE: "TREE-CLIMBING ASSOCIATION" REFERS TO A 1976 SATIRICAL NOVEL BY EDITH HANSON, AN AMERICAN CULTURAL CRITIC LIVING IN JAPAN AND FLUENT IN THE LANGUAGE.



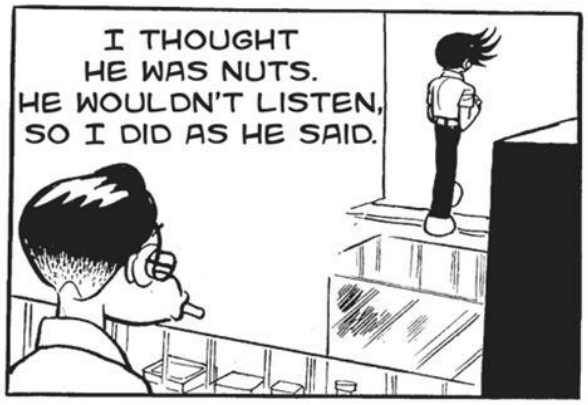
NOTE: BOTTLE LABEL = FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY, LINIMENT; ADDRESS, MIDORI PHARMACY

A BIRD.
ASKED IF I HAD MEDS FOR ONE!
YUP. TOLD ME HE WANTED TO TREAT A BIRD.
LAD SAID ITS WING WAS HURT.
HE'D FOUND IT WRITHING IN THE STREET AND TAKEN IT HOME.
APPARENTLY IT HAD A MATE THAT CAME TO HIS WINDOW EVERY DAY. WATCHING OVER. KINDA CUTE.
THAT MIGHT DO A BIRD GOOD!
SO I MIXED A SALVE
AND I KNOW THE BIRD GOT BETTER CUZ...
I GATHERED HE HAS TO WORK AFTER SCHOOL. CAN'T BE EASY. I DID CHARGE, AND HE PAID.

SINCE THE BIRD COULD FLY AGAIN, HE WANTED A TINY BOTTLE OF THE SALVE THE BIRDS COULD TAKE WITH THEM.


THE LAD CAME IN HERE WITH THE MATES PERCHED ON HIS TWO SHOULDERS!

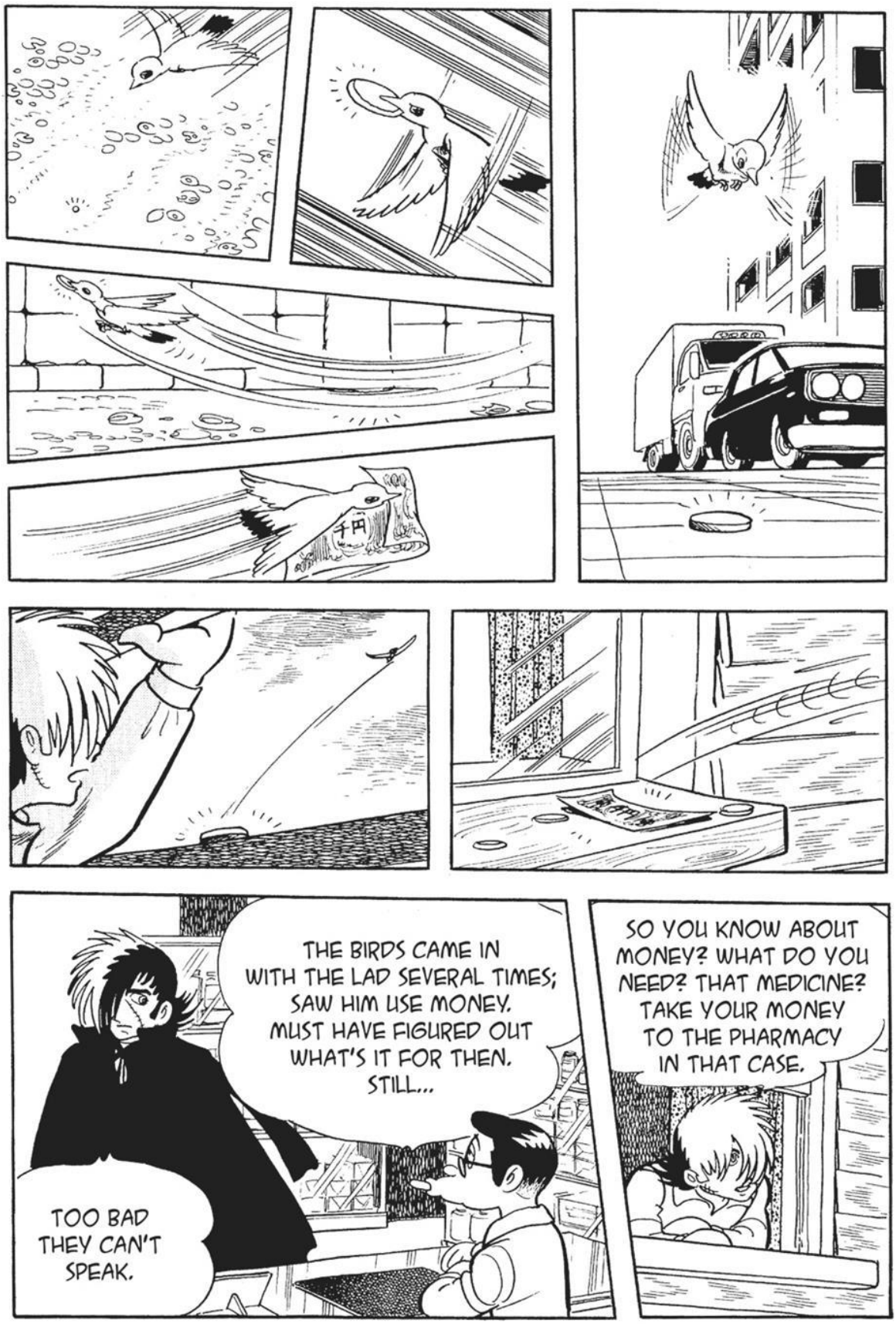
REALLY? CLEVER LITTLE THINGS...
THAT BOTTLE WAS IN A ROBIN'S NEST.


I THOUGHT HE WAS NUTS. HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, SO I DID AS HE SAID.

BE THAT AS IT MAY...
HA !
I S'POSE THOSE BIRDS UNDERSTOOD THE EFFECT AND WERE APPLYING IT AT HOME.

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD KNOW.

THE MATE
HAS BEEN BRINGING ME MONEY EVERY DAY.
HAS HE, NOW? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?


千円
THE BIRDS CAME IN WITH THE LAD SEVERAL TIMES; SAW HIM USE MONEY. MUST HAVE FIGURED OUT WHAT'S IT FOR THEN. STILL...
TOO BAD THEY CAN'T SPEAK.
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT MONEY? WHAT DO YOU NEED? THAT MEDICINE? TAKE YOUR MONEY TO THE PHARMACY IN THAT CASE.

PRO'LY CLOSE BY, THOUGH ...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE WAS OR WHERE HE LIVES.

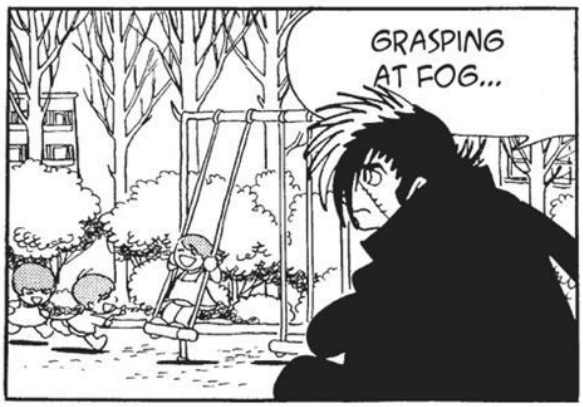
IF I COULD MEET THIS BOY WHO CURED THE BIRD...

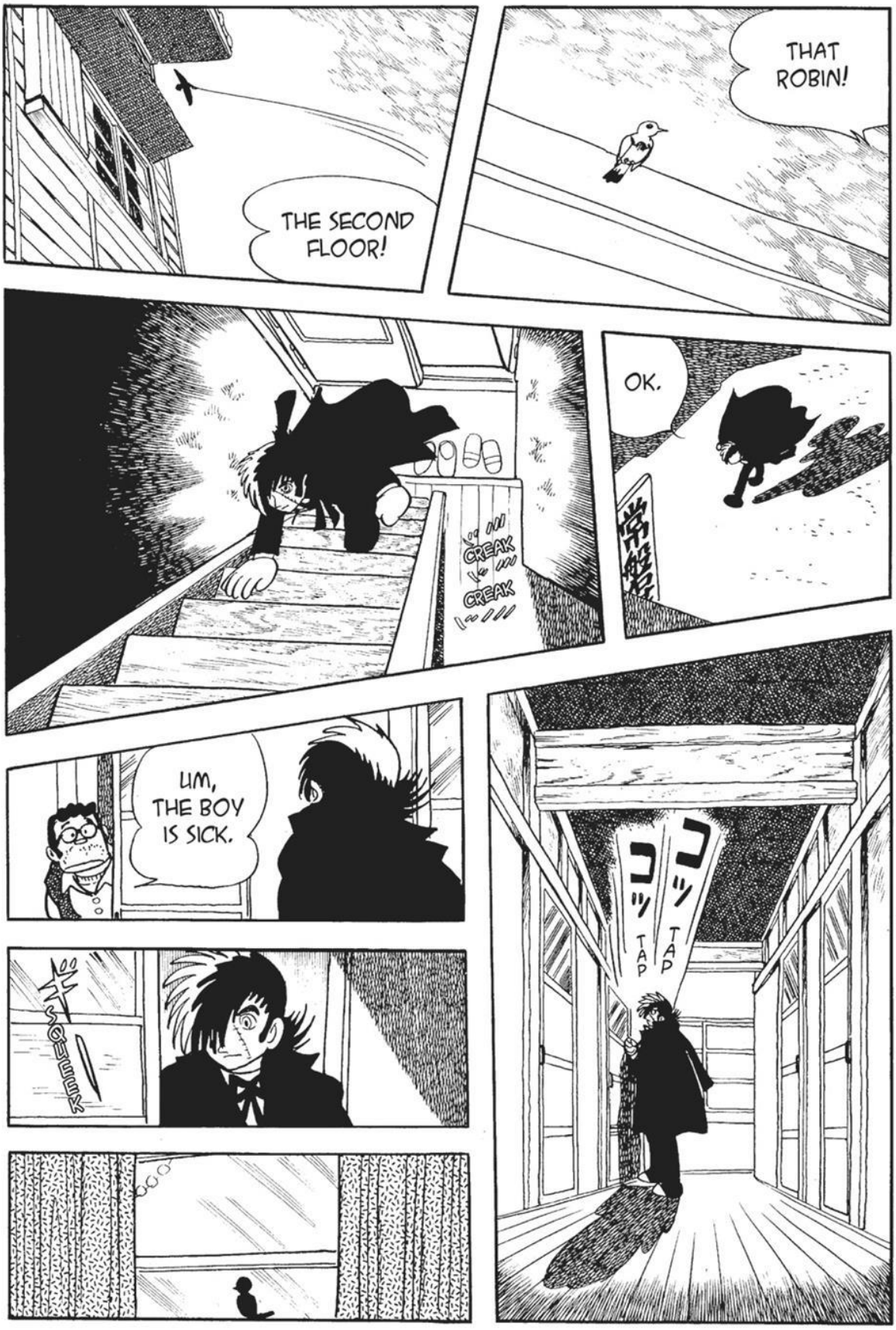
WHY BRING MONEY TO YOU?

DON'T ASK ME.

NO IDEA !

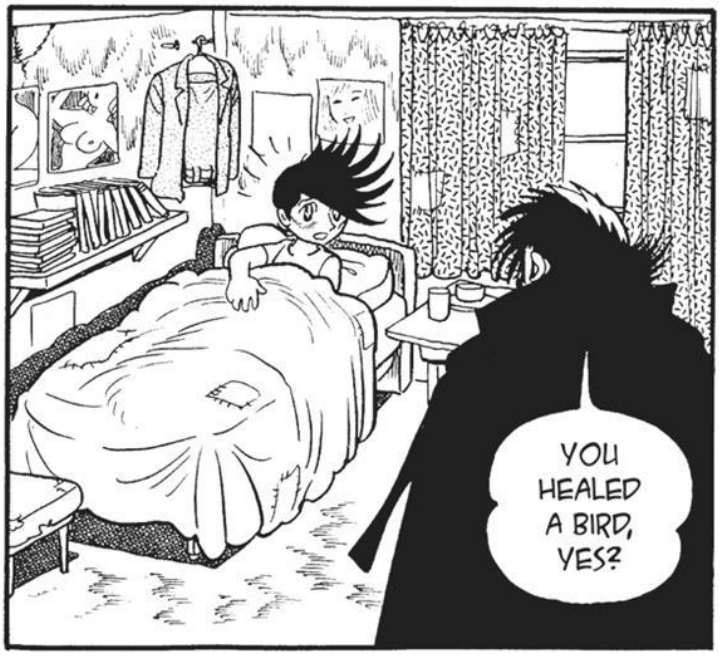
AH!


GRASPING AT FOG...


THE SECOND FLOOR!
THAT ROBIN!
CREAK
CREAK
OK.
常盤
UM, THE BOY IS SICK.
コツ
TAP
コツ
TAP

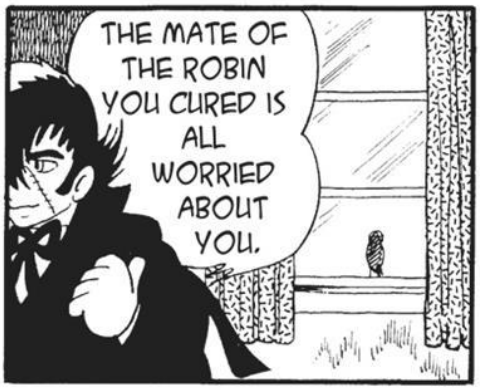
I'VE HAD A FEVER AND MY PEE'S WHITE...
I CURE FOLKS. WHAT AILS YOU?

IT'S MY KIDNEYS, RIGHT?

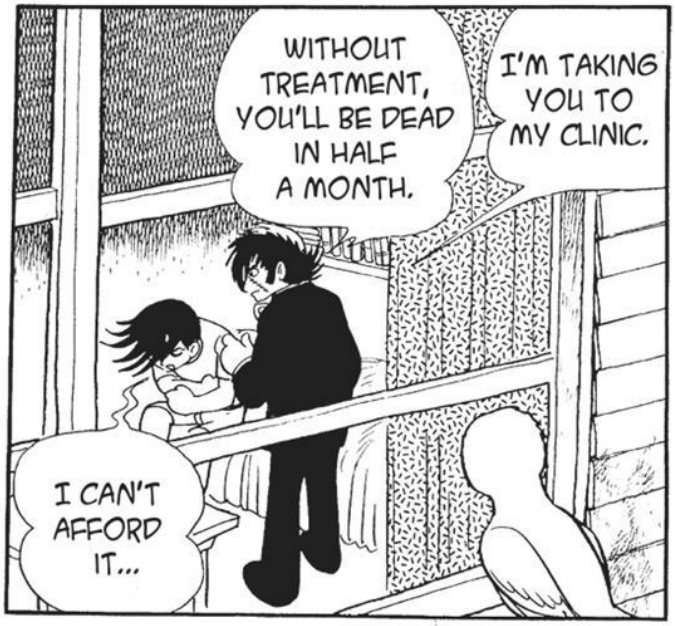

YOU HEALED A BIRD, YES?

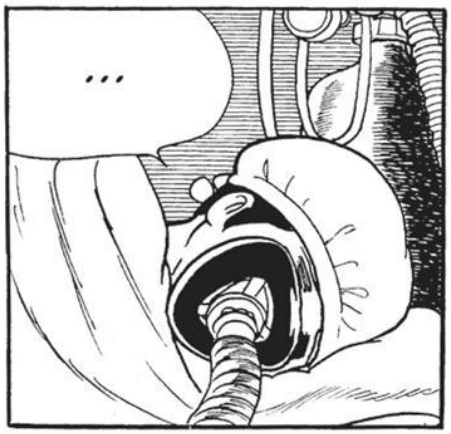
DON'T HAVE ANY INSURANCE. I'M ALL ALONE... THE HOSPITAL'S FULL, AND I'VE NO MONEY...

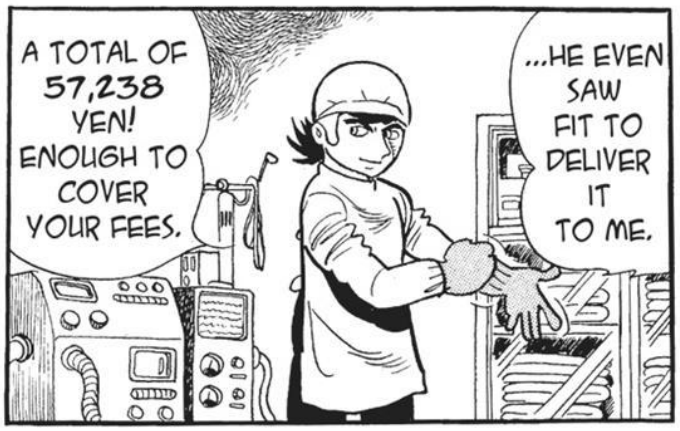
I...
WHY NOT SEE A DOCTOR?


THE MATE OF THE ROBIN YOU CURED IS ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

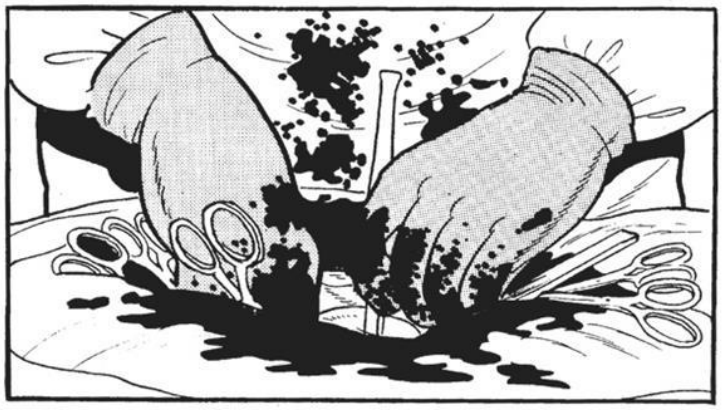
YES YOU CAN. I THINK THE ROBIN'S BEEN FINDING THE MONEY FOR YOU!
WHAT ?!


WITHOUT TREATMENT, YOU'LL BE DEAD IN HALF A MONTH.
I'M TAKING YOU TO MY CLINIC.
I CAN'T AFFORD IT...


...


A TOTAL OF 57,238 YEN! ENOUGH TO COVER YOUR FEES.
...HE EVEN SAW FIT TO DELIVER IT TO ME.

THAT ROBIN, GLUED TO YOUR WINDOW, WAS HOW I FOUND YOU.



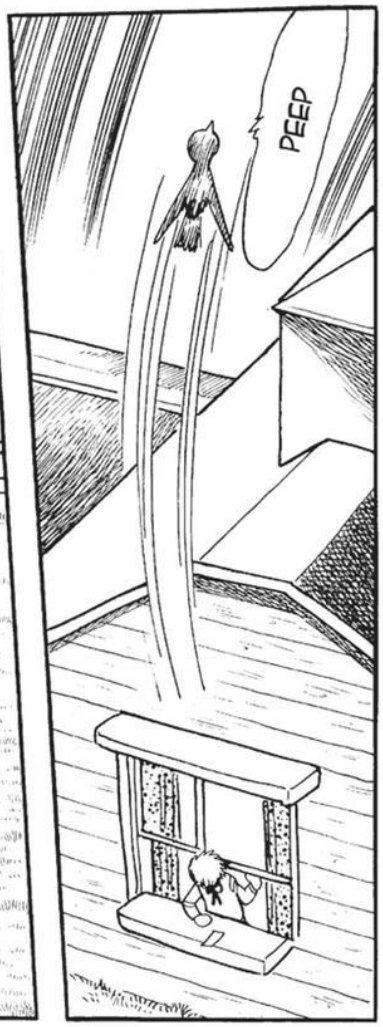
AND TO GATHER MONEY, HE STAYED IN JAPAN FOR THE WINTER!
HE FIGURED OUT I'M A DOCTOR AND COURTED MY AID. AN AMAZING FELLOW, EH?

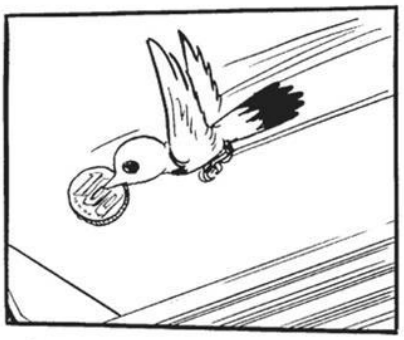
TELL HIM I DON'T NEED MORE. AND THAT THE OPERATION WENT WELL.
DOCTOR, THE BIWD BWOUGHT MONEY AGAIN.

HMM... I GUESS NOT.

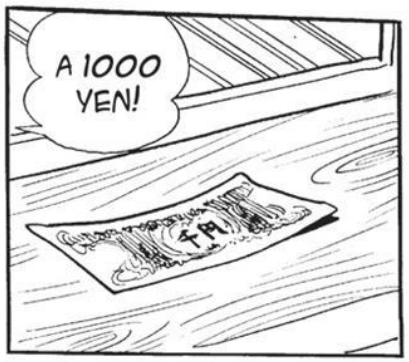
WILL HE KNOW?

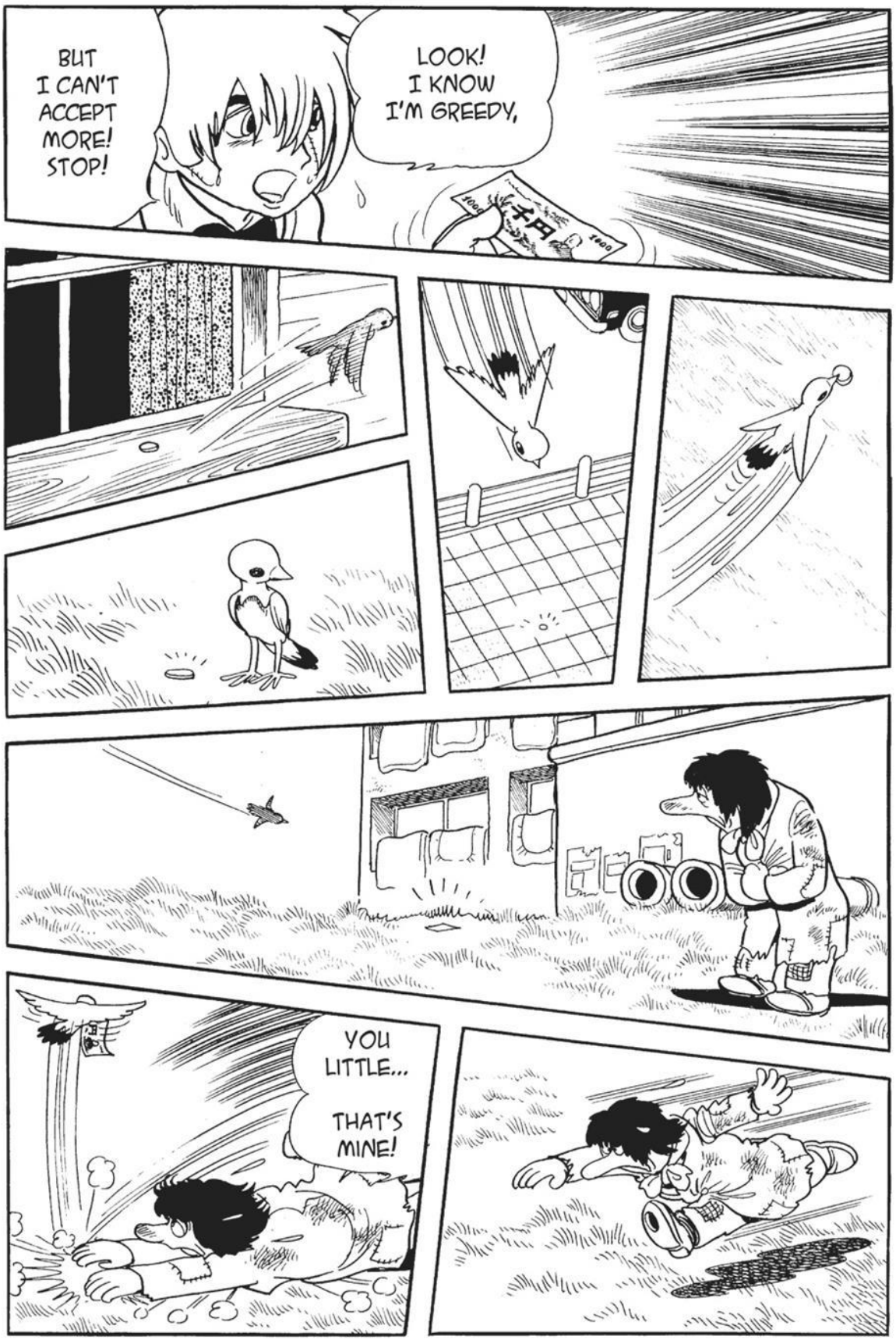
THAT'S ENOUGH, MR. ROBIN. YOU'VE BROUGHT PLENTY ALREADY.
REST UP TILL SPRING.

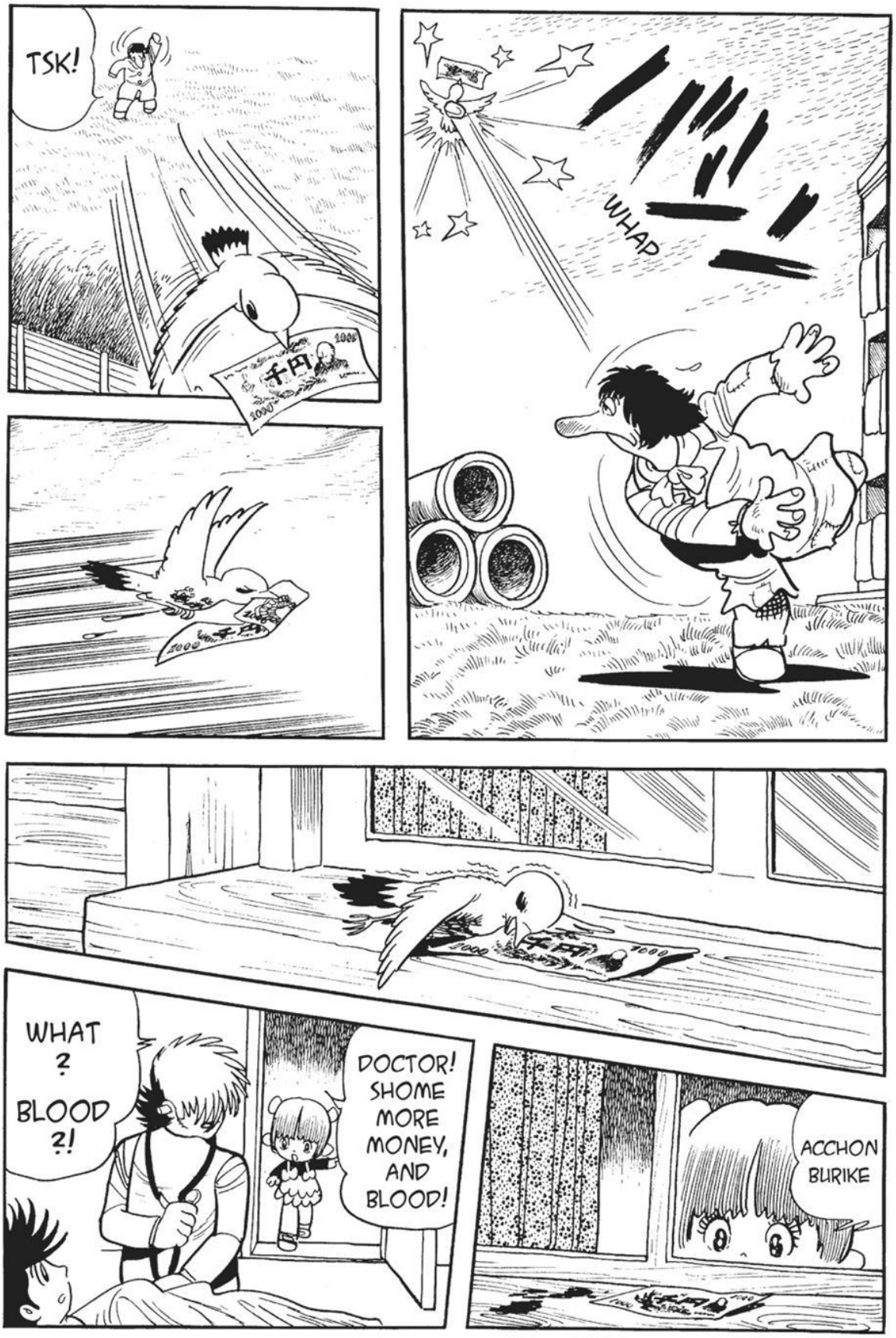

PEEP



A 100 YEN!

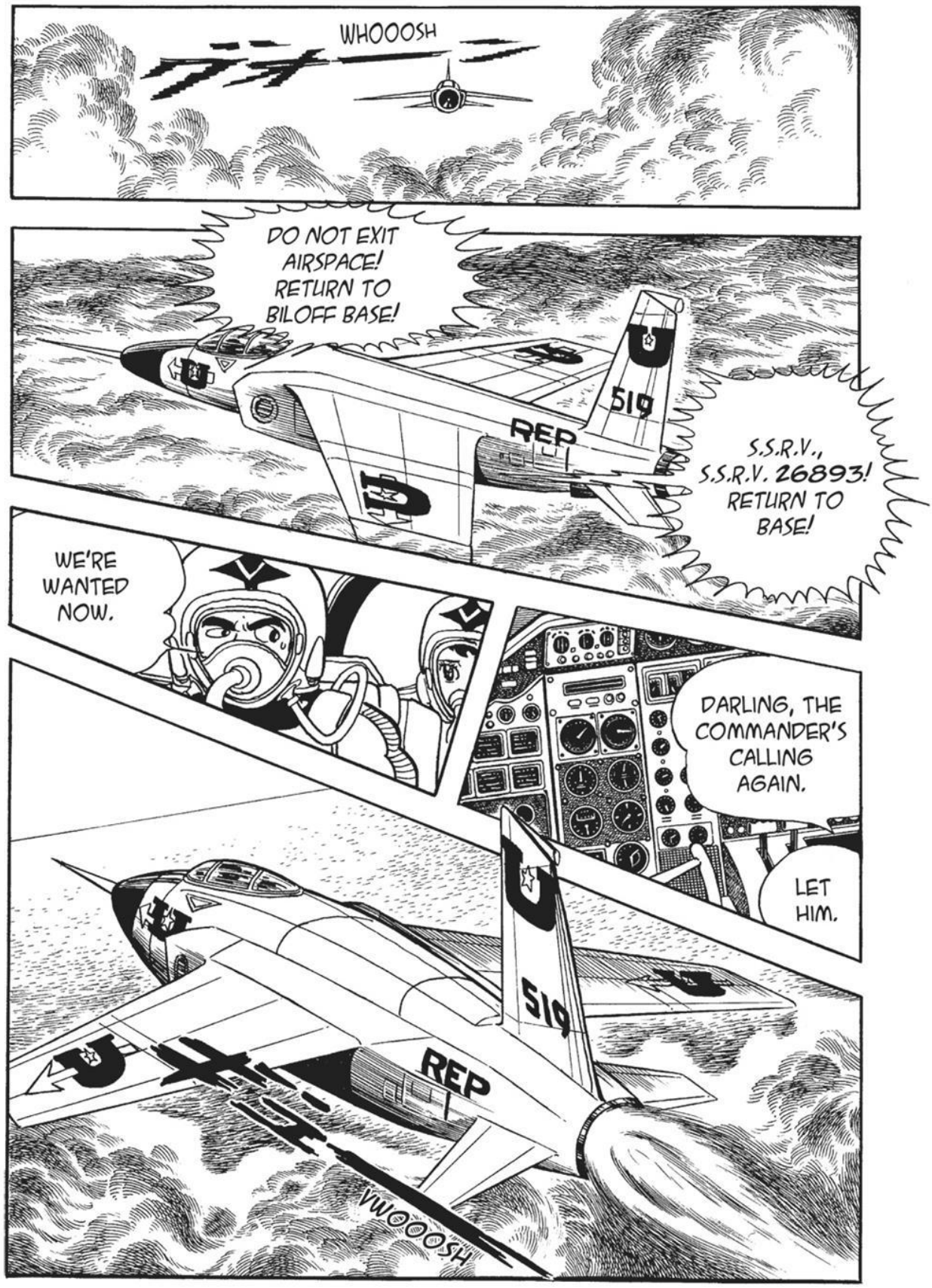

A 1000 YEN!

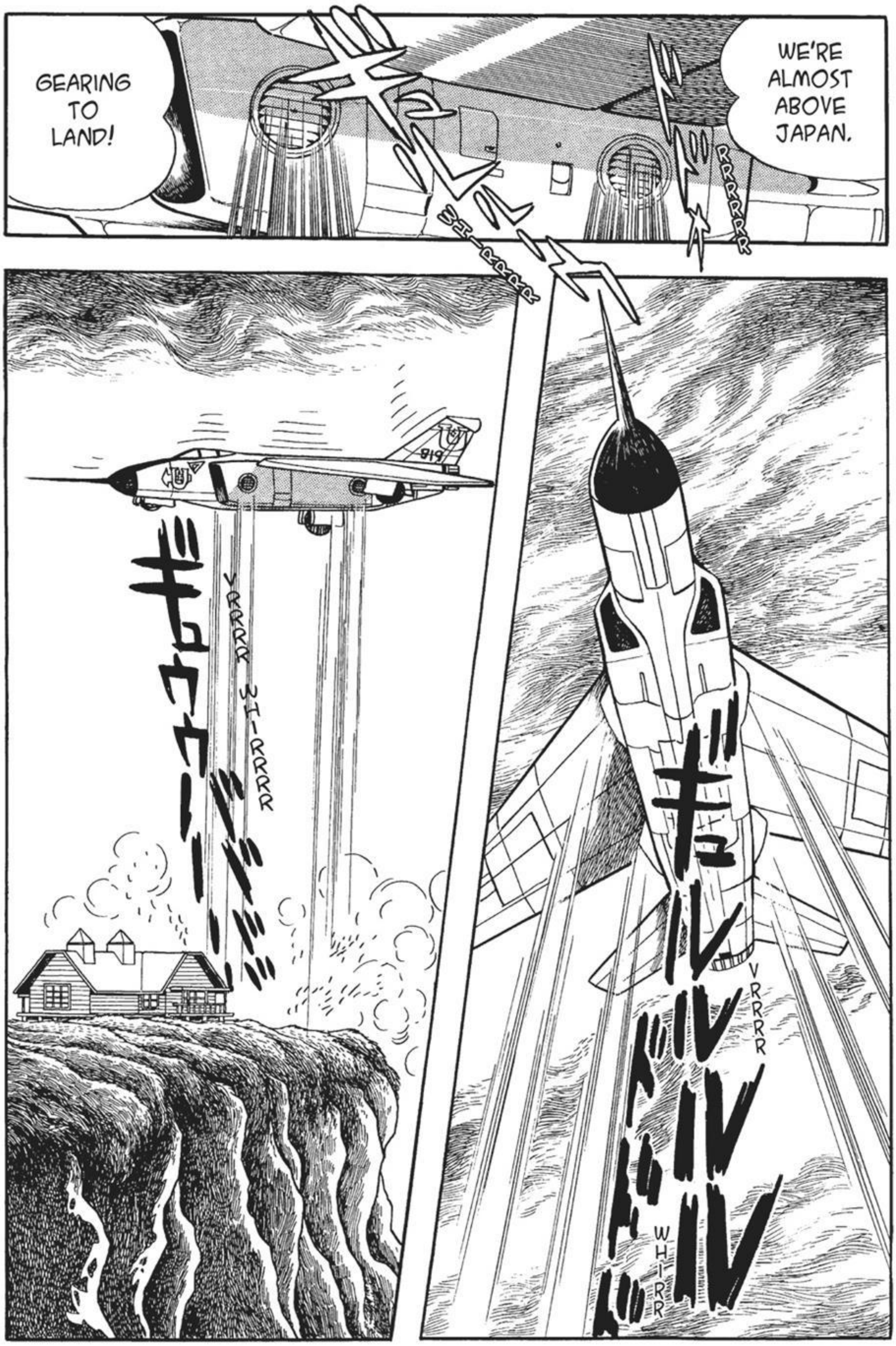

BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT MORE! STOP!
LOOK! I KNOW I'M GREEDY,
YOU LITTLE...
THAT'S MINE!


TSK!
WHAP
WHAT ? BLOOD ?!
DOCTOR! SHOME MORE MONEY, AND BLOOD!
ACCHON BURIKE

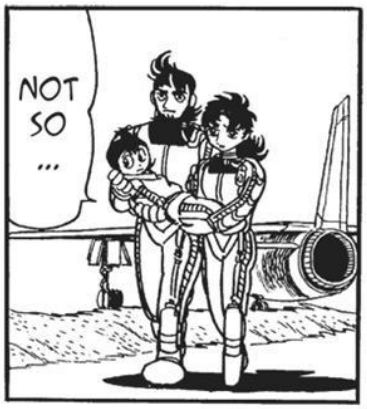
ONE LAST TRIP FOR YOU.
BARELY ALIVE, IT MADE
IT'S ME! THANKS TO YOU... SEE... I'M BETTER...

THE BOY WHO CAME FROM THE SKY


WHOOOSH
DO NOT EXIT AIRSPACE! RETURN TO BILOFF BASE!
S.S.R.V., S.S.R.V. 26893! RETURN TO BASE!
WE'RE WANTED NOW.
DARLING, THE COMMANDER'S CALLING AGAIN.
LET HIM.
519
REP
WWOOOSH


WE'RE ALMOST ABOVE JAPAN.
RRRRRRR
GEARING TO LAND!
VRRRR
WHIRR
VRRRR
WHIRRRR

HELLO.
ARE YOU NOT IM-PRESSED?
HELLO.
I AM MAJOR IVAN JURIC GAGANOFF, URAN UNION AIRFORCE!
I'VE COME SEEKING YOUR HELP, DR. BLACK JACK!
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE MYSELF.


NOT SO ...

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN IN A VTOL FOR A PICNIC?

MAY I BRING MY WIFE AND SON INSIDE?

IF YOU'D WRITTEN ME, I'D HAVE COME.
WHY RISK YOUR NECK LIKE THAT ?

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

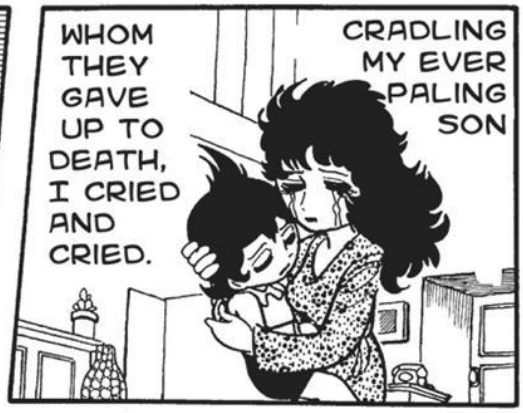
I'VE DEFECTED FROM MY NATIVE LAND TO SEEK YOUR HELP!
I WANT YOU TO CURE MY SON, ANDREI.
THAT WAS DRASTIC OF YOU...

WE'RE CONFINED TO A RESTRICTED ZONE AND FORBIDDEN ALL CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS.

YOU SEE, I'M A MEMBER OF A SPECIALLY TRAINED UNIT.

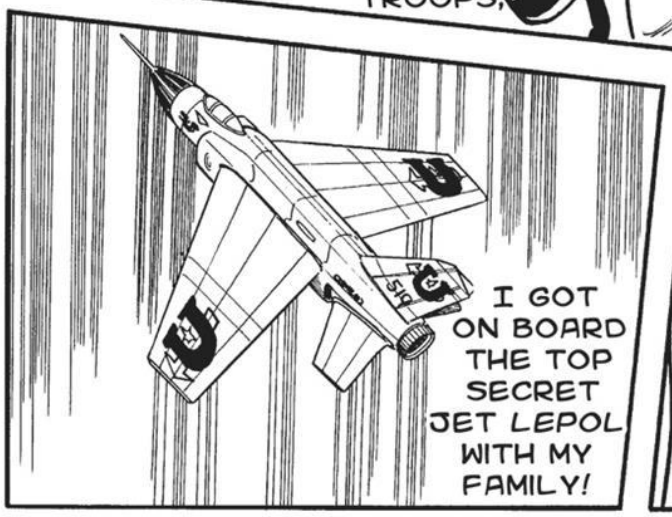
THEY KEEP YOU CAGED TO GUARD IT, HUH?
I SEE. THAT VTOL MUST BE THE TOP SECRET.
YOUR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IS SUPPOSED TO BE PRETTY ADVANCED.
THE DOCTORS, THEY ALL GAVE UP...
A HEART MURMUR BETWEEN HIS THIRD AND FOURTH RIBS.
SURGICAL SCARS OVER HIS HEART. VENTRICULAR SEPTAL DEFECT. AM I RIGHT?
HE IS VERY SICK. DUE TO THE RISKS, THE LAST SURGERY WAS CALLED OFF.
WE WEPT EVERY DAY FOR OUR ANDREI.
THEY TOLD US NO DOCTOR ON EARTH COULD CURE HIM.

IN THE END, HE DECIDED TO FORSAKE OUR NATION FOR OUR CHILD.
I PUSHED MY HUSBAND TO DEFECT TO JAPAN, FOR ANDREI. AT FIRST HE RESISTED.


WHOM THEY GAVE UP TO DEATH, I CRIED AND CRIED.
CRADLING MY EVER PALING SON

THEN I LEARNED OF A DOCTOR IN JAPAN, DOCTOR BLACK JACK.

DISGUISED AS ONE OF HIS TROOPS,
FORTUNATELY, MY HUSBAND HAD HIGH STATUS AT THE BASE.
HE COULD ACT QUITE FREELY.

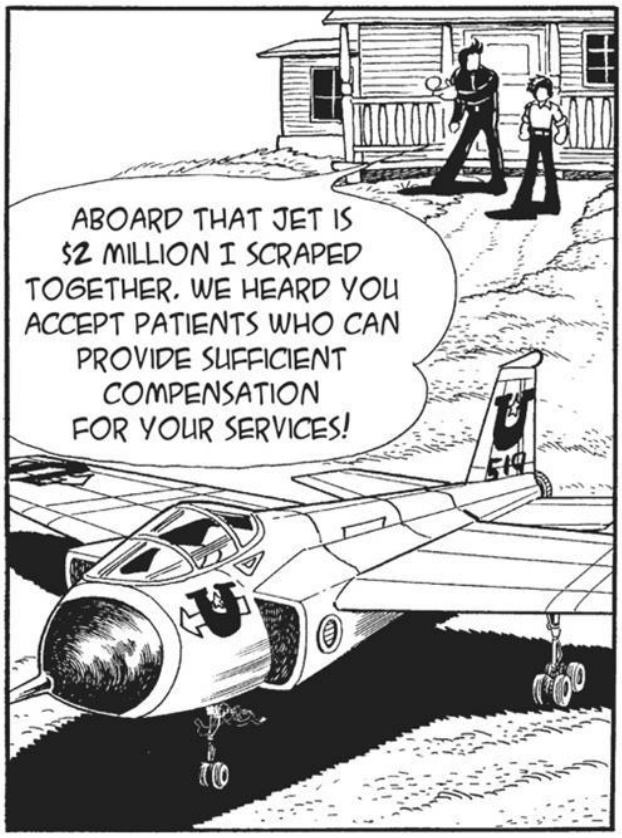

I GOT ON BOARD THE TOP SECRET JET *LEPOL* WITH MY FAMILY!

THE BAG WHERE WE HID ANDREI NOT SO MUCH AS CHECKED,

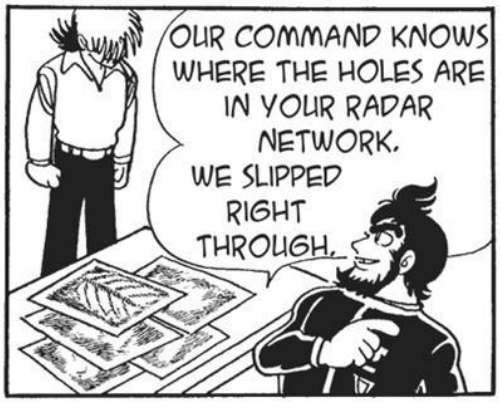
I BEG OF YOU, DOCTOR. SAVE ANDREI.
LET'S SAY I DO. WHAT NEXT?
GAVE UP NATIONALITY, STATUS, AND HONOR; BECAME A TRAITOR, AND FLED TO JAPAN!
THERE! AIRFORCE OFFICER GAGANOFF BETRAYED HIS NATION AND STOLE THE TOP-SECRET LEPOL, JUST FOR HIS OWN SON;

ABSOLUTELY NOT.
NEXT? WHO CARES! PLEASE JUST DO THE OPERATION!

THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED. THE SOONER YOU LEAVE, THE BETTER!
THIS PLACE WILL BE SWARMING WITH ARMY, POLICE, ASSASSINS, AGENTS...
OUR RADAR SYSTEMS COULDN'T HAVE MISSED YOUR LANDING HERE IN THAT THING.


ABOARD THAT JET IS $2 MILLION I SCRAPED TOGETHER. WE HEARD YOU ACCEPT PATIENTS WHO CAN PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COMPENSATION FOR YOUR SERVICES!

JAPANESE RADAR COULDN'T HAVE DETECTED THE PLANE.
NO NEED TO WORRY.


OUR COMMAND KNOWS WHERE THE HOLES ARE IN YOUR RADAR NETWORK. WE SLIPPED RIGHT THROUGH.

I CAN'T DO IT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WILL YOU STILL REFUSE ME?

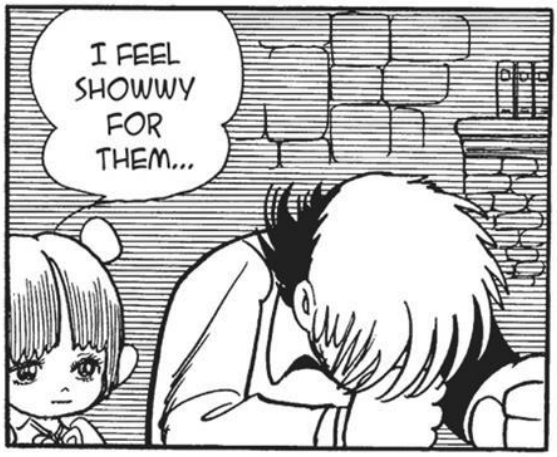
IT'S NO USE, MAJOR.
SORRY TO TURN YOU DOWN.

YOUR DOCTORS WERE RIGHT—
IT'D BE FUTILE.

"SOB" IT'S THE END FOR OUR BOY...

THAT IS MY PROMISE TO YOU.
BUT SOMEWHERE THERE IS A DOCTOR WHO CAN HELP. PAPA WILL FIND HIM, IF IT MEANS SEARCHING THE WHOLE WORLD.

YOU'VE NO LUCK, SON...

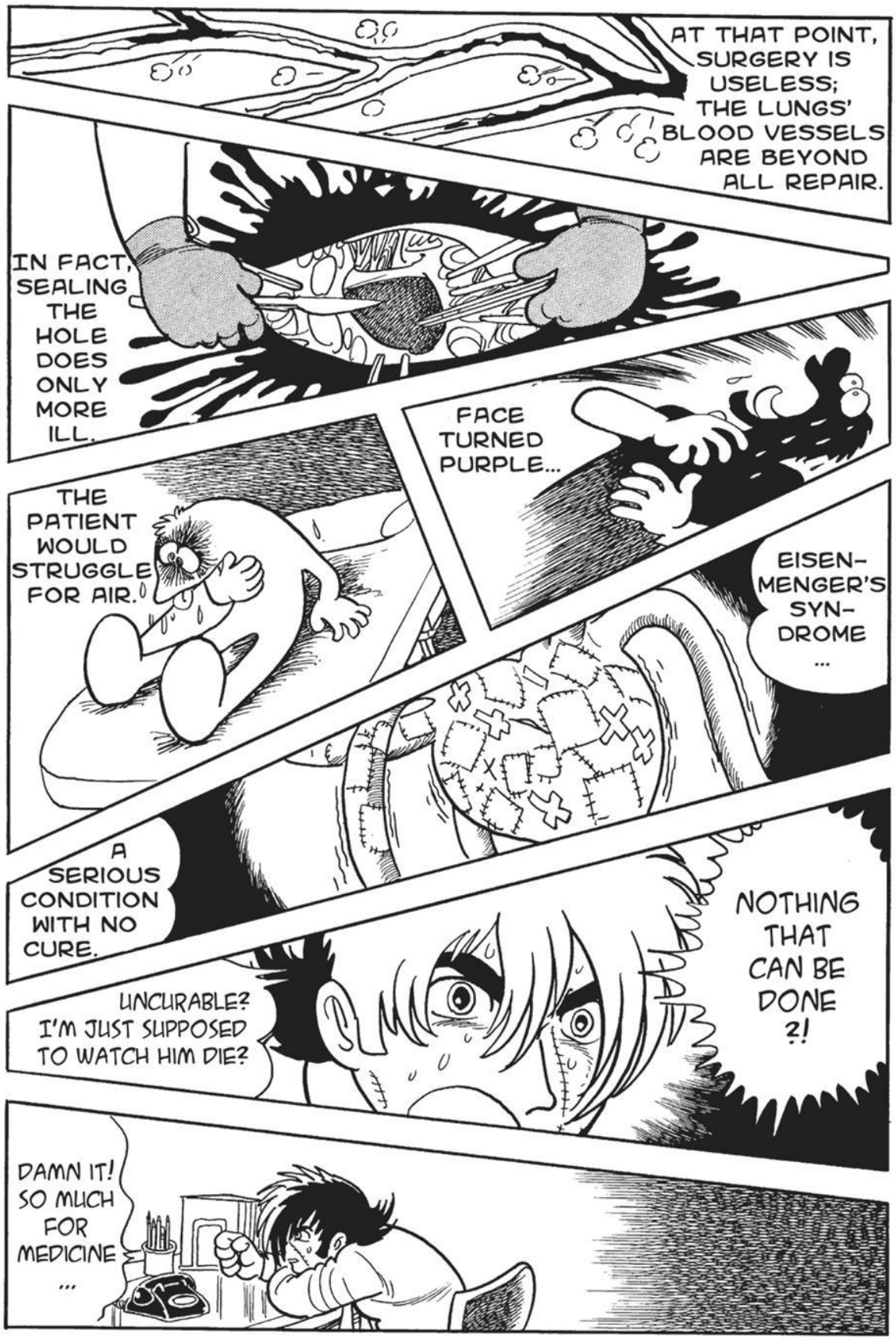

I FEEL SHOWWY FOR THEM...

I BWOUGHT YOU TEA, DOCTOR.

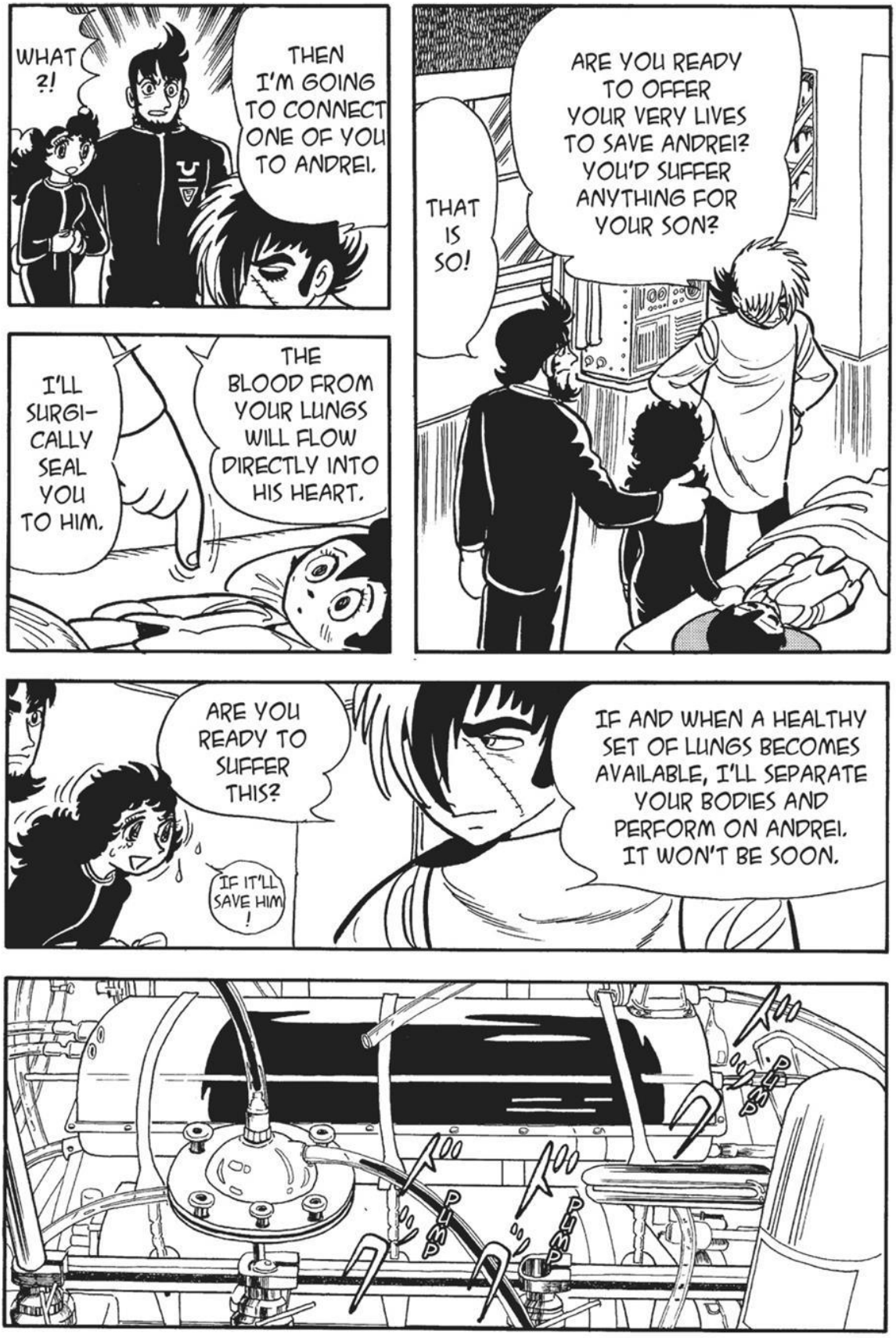
DON'T TALK TO ME!!

SORRY FOR THEM, TOO.
I FEEL ...
...
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!

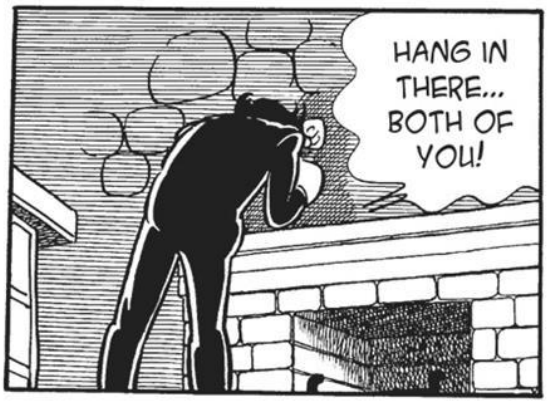
PERHAPS I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM...
...
IF I COULD OPERATE A YEAR AGO...
ONE YEAR !
DAMN IT!
EISEN-MENGER'S SYN-DROME...
Heart
Lungs
IF A HOLE ISN'T PATCHED, THE INCREASED BLOOD FLOW TO THE LUNGS CAUSES...
VENTRI-CULAR SEPTAL DEFECT.
CLOSING HOLES IN HEART WALLS IS A BIG PART OF HEART SURGERY.
A DAN-GEROUS LEVEL OF PRESSURE THERE !


AT THAT POINT, SURGERY IS USELESS; THE LUNGS' BLOOD VESSELS ARE BEYOND ALL REPAIR.
IN FACT, SEALING THE HOLE DOES ONLY MORE ILL.
FACE TURNED PURPLE...
THE PATIENT WOULD STRUGGLE FOR AIR.
EISEN-MENGER'S SYN-DROME ...
A SERIOUS CONDITION WITH NO CURE.
NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE ?!
UNCURABLE? I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO WATCH HIM DIE?
DAMN IT! SO MUCH FOR MEDICINE ...

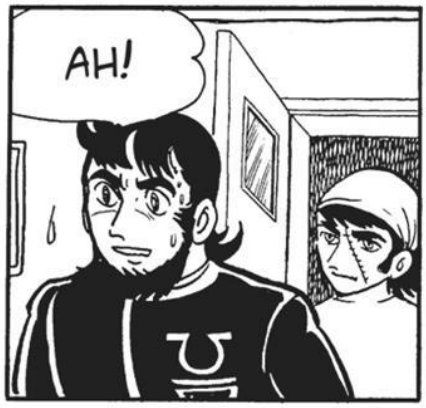
A FULL LUNG TRANS-PLANT!
HOW ABOUT NEW BLOOD VESSELS IN THE LUNGS?
IT'S NOT AN OPTION ...
LUNGS SHRIVEL UP AND BECOME USELESS WHEN A PERSON DIES.
NEVER TRIED IT. BESIDES, WHERE'S THAT LUNG?
GIVING UP EVERY-THING!
THEY CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE ME...
GRANT ME THE COURAGE !
DOCTOR HONMA...
GOD, I FEEL WRETCHED.


WHAT ?!
THEN I'M GOING TO CONNECT ONE OF YOU TO ANDREI.
ARE YOU READY TO OFFER YOUR VERY LIVES TO SAVE ANDREI? YOU'D SUFFER ANYTHING FOR YOUR SON?
THAT IS SO!
I'LL SURGI-CALLY SEAL YOU TO HIM.
THE BLOOD FROM YOUR LUNGS WILL FLOW DIRECTLY INTO HIS HEART.
ARE YOU READY TO SUFFER THIS?
IF IT'LL SAVE HIM!
IF AND WHEN A HEALTHY SET OF LUNGS BECOMES AVAILABLE, I'LL SEPARATE YOUR BODIES AND PERFORM ON ANDREI. IT WON'T BE SOON.

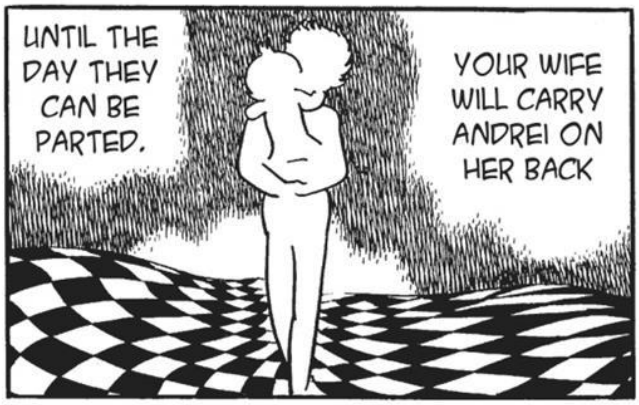
ONE MORE RIGHT-ANGLE CLAMP.
KELLY.


HANG IN THERE... BOTH OF YOU!

IT'S DONE, MAJOR.


AH!

WHEN THE BANDAGES COME OFF, YOU'LL SEE THAT THEY'VE INDEED BECOME ONE. ANDREI'S HEART'S BEEN FIXED, AND HIS BLOOD FLOWS TO HIS MOTHER'S LUNGS TO BE CLEANSED.


UNTIL THE DAY THEY CAN BE PARTED.
YOUR WIFE WILL CARRY ANDREI ON HER BACK

THEY SHARED THE SAME BLOOD TYPE.
WE WERE LUCKY

I AM ETERNALLY INDEBTED TO YOU... AS ARE MY WIFE AND CHILD...
FINE... WHERE'S MY FEE?

DOCTOR !!

YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT FIRST ...
WORTH 10 MILLION I BET.
YOU'LL NEED THIS TO LIVE. I'LL TAKE THE LEPOL.

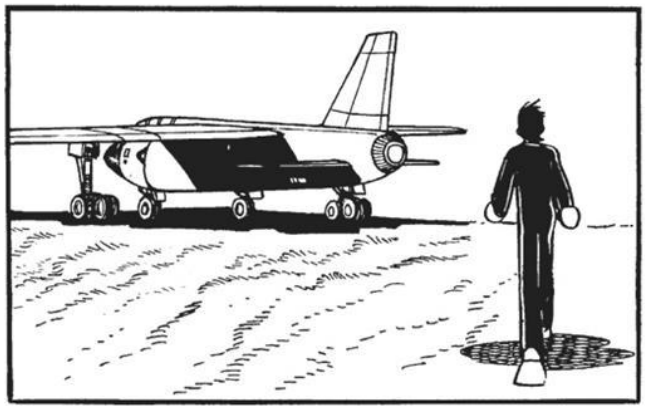
HERE. ALL OUR MONEY!

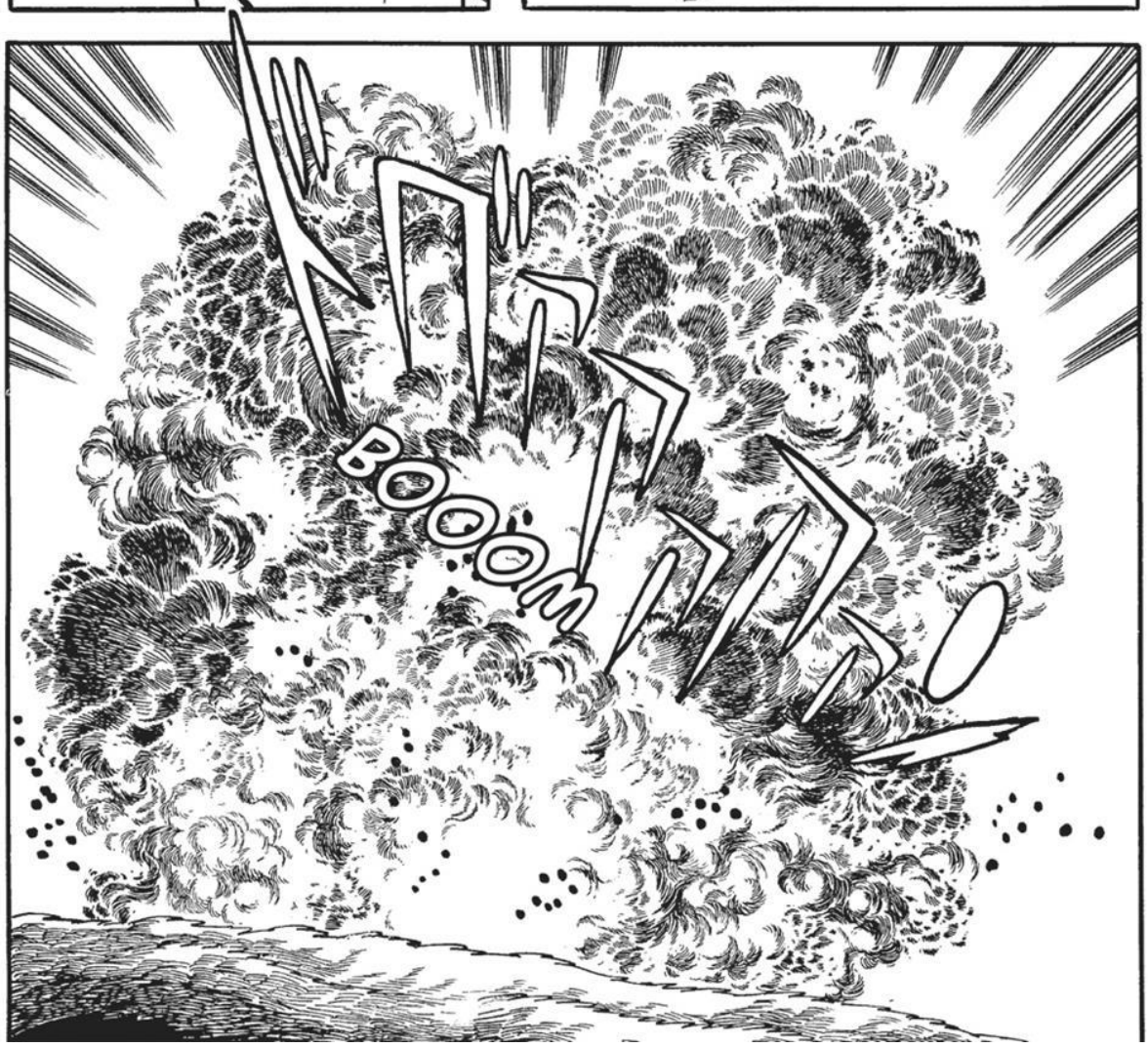
TELL THEM, "FARE WELL."
MY WIFE WOULD UNDER-STAND.

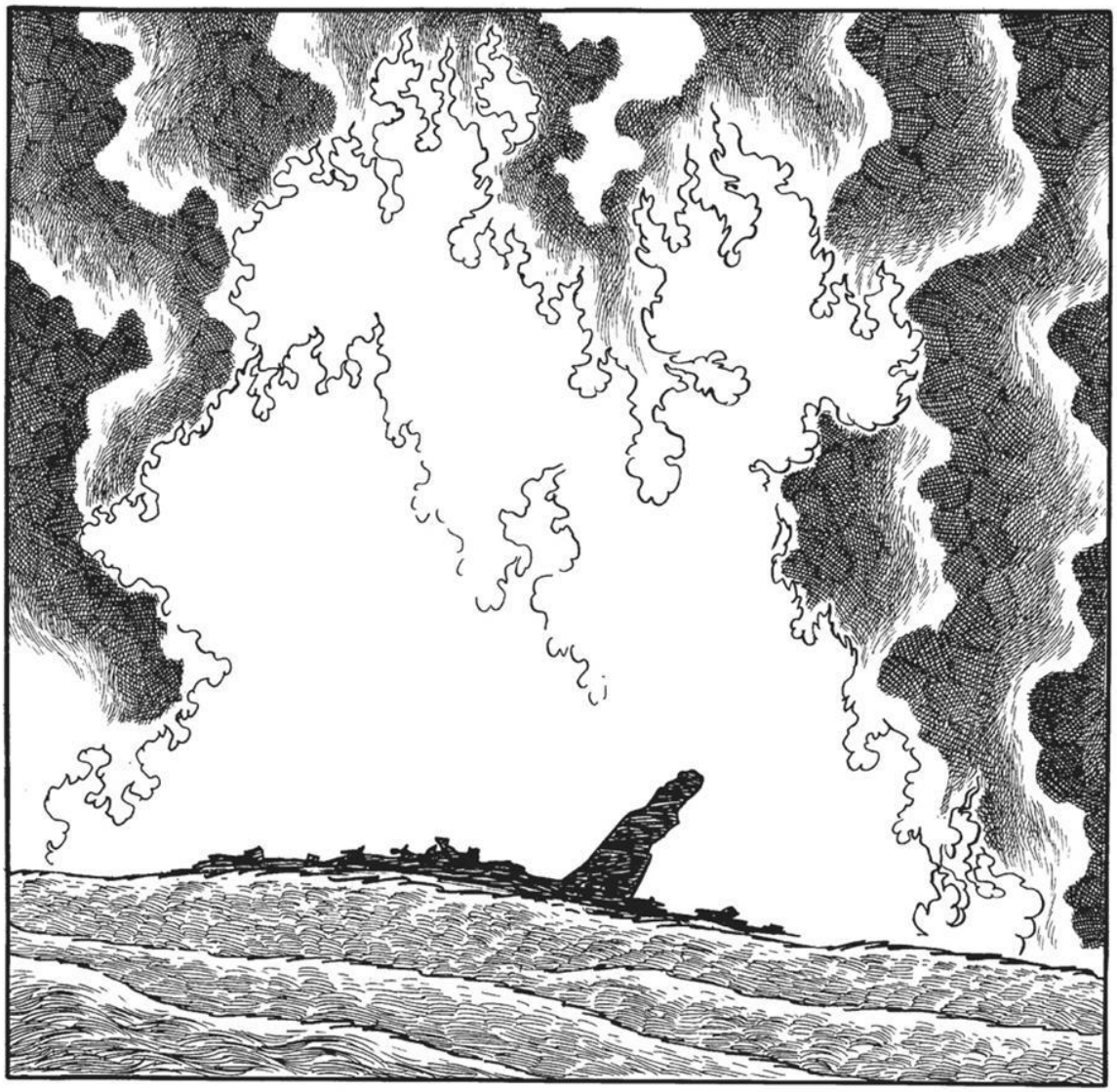
I MUST ACCOUNT FOR MY ACTIONS, AS AN OFFICER OF THE URAN UNION.

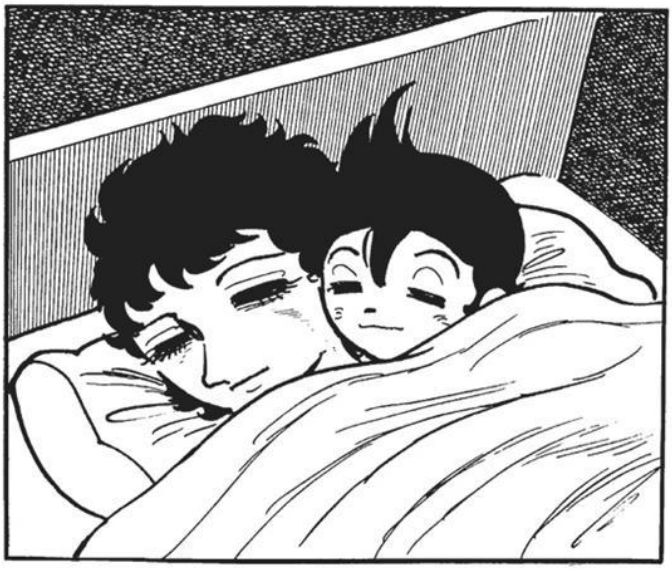
ACCOUNT FOR YOUR ACTIONS, LIKE HOW?
GOODBYE, BLACK JACK. YOU WERE QUITE A DOCTOR.

K-K-KA-




BOOOM

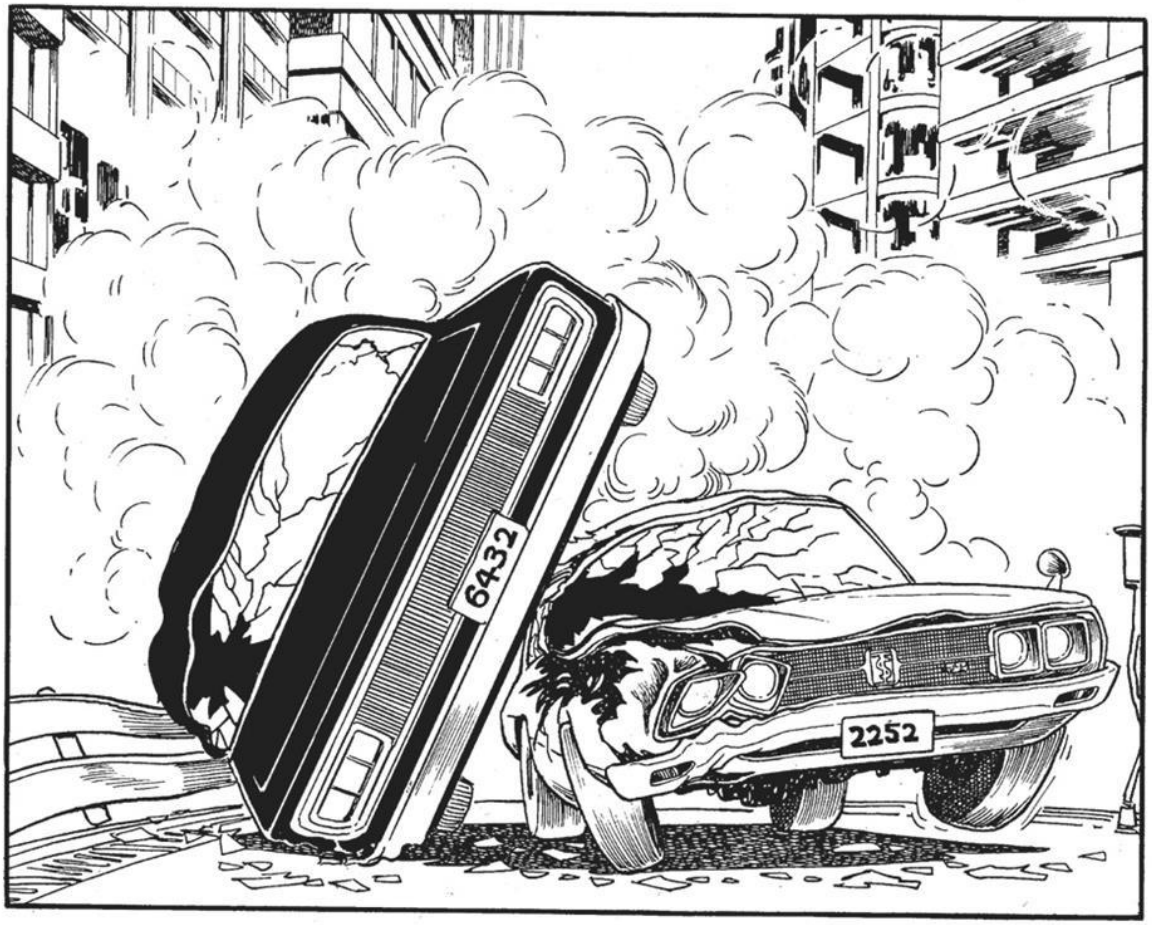




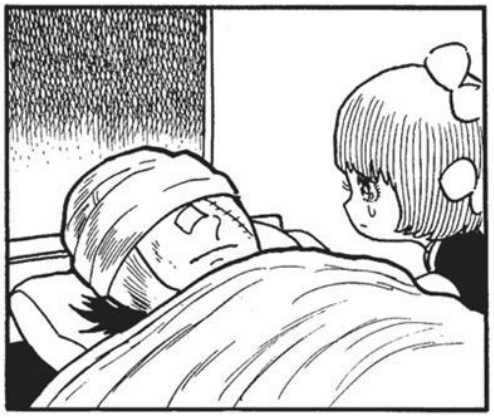
AND YOU WERE QUITE A SOLDIER.

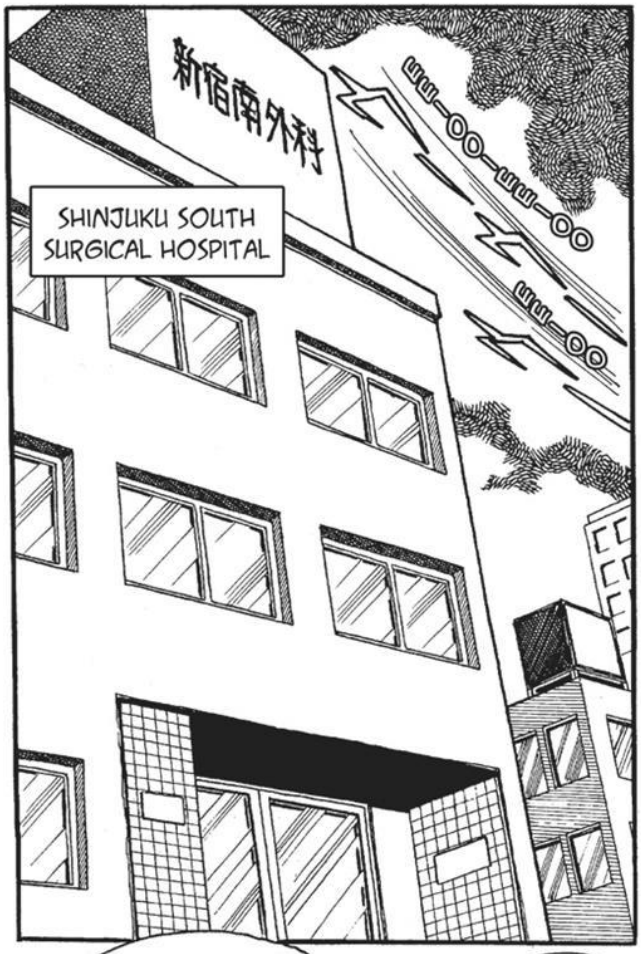
BLACK JACK IN HOSPITAL

BEE-P
6432
SKREE
KRASH


6432
2252

EE-OO-EE-OO




新宿南外科
SHINJUKU SOUTH SURGICAL HOSPITAL
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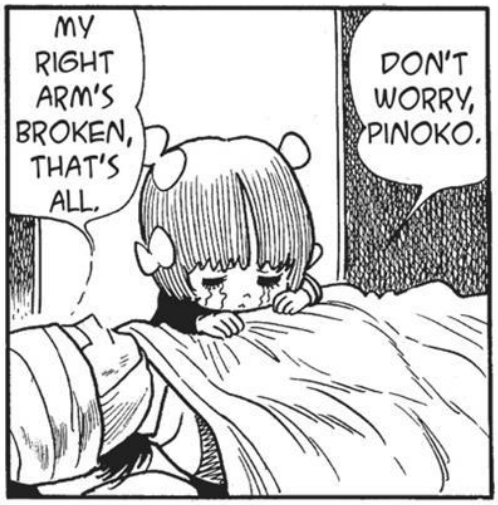
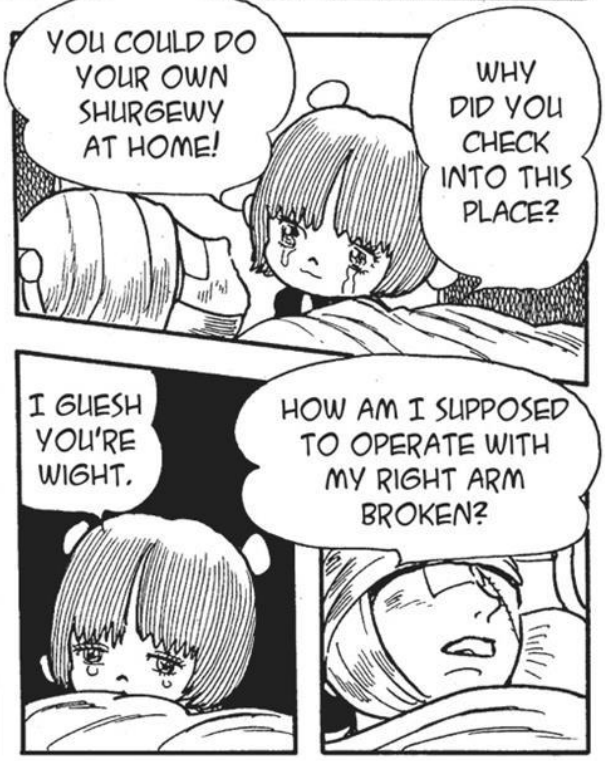
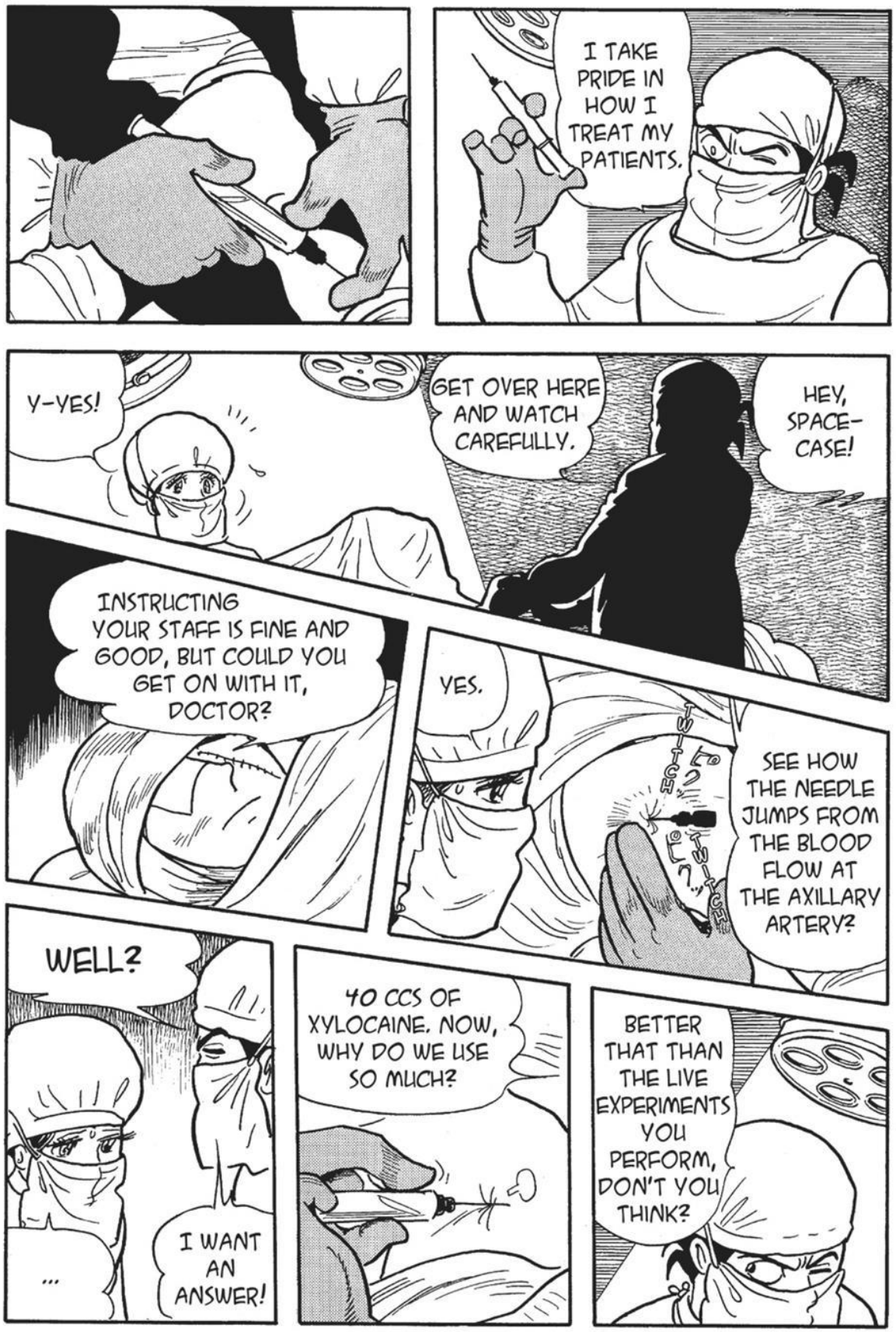

MY RIGHT ARM'S BROKEN, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T WORRY, PINOKO.

WE'RE READY, MR. BLACK JACK. LET'S PROCEED TO THE OPERATING ROOM.

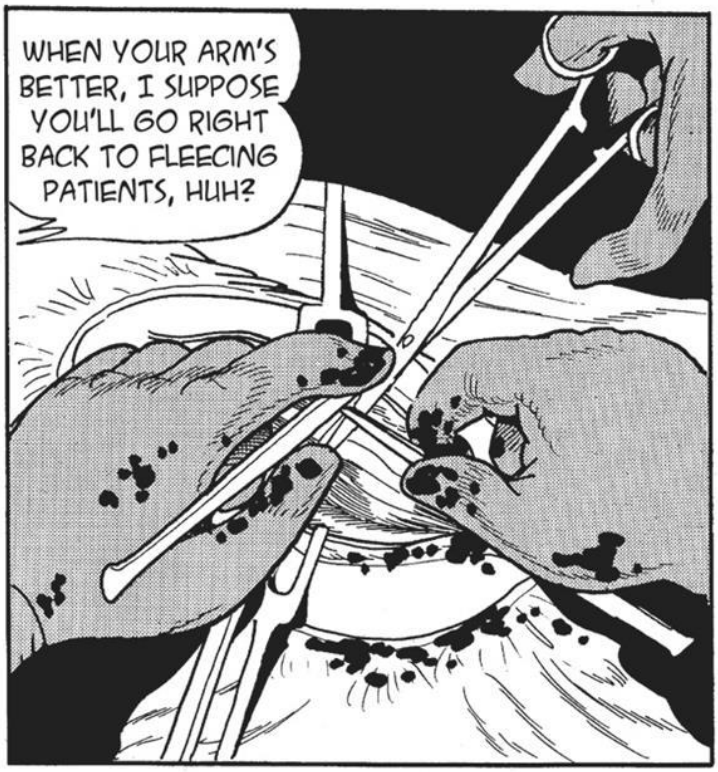

YOU COULD DO YOUR OWN SHURGEWY AT HOME!
WHY DID YOU CHECK INTO THIS PLACE?
I GUESH YOU'RE WIGHT.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO OPERATE WITH MY RIGHT ARM BROKEN?

I'M THE WIFE!!
SWEET-HEART, DADDY WILL BE FINE!
MAKE THE DOCTOR JUST LIKE HE WAS!
WELL, ISN'T THIS AN HONOR! I GET TO OPERATE ON THE FAMOUS CHARLATAN, DOCTOR BLACK JACK!
...
ALAS, TODAY YOU'RE JUST A PATIENT.
I'D ALWAYS HOPED TO SPIT IN YOUR FACE.
BUT I'D RATHER YOU HAD NOT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TUMBLED IN HERE ...


I TAKE PRIDE IN HOW I TREAT MY PATIENTS.
Y-YES!
GET OVER HERE AND WATCH CAREFULLY.
HEY, SPACE-CASE!
INSTRUCTING YOUR STAFF IS FINE AND GOOD, BUT COULD YOU GET ON WITH IT, DOCTOR?
YES.
SEE HOW THE NEEDLE JUMPS FROM THE BLOOD FLOW AT THE AXILLARY ARTERY?
WELL?
...
I WANT AN ANSWER!
40 CCS OF XYLOCAINE. NOW, WHY DO WE USE SO MUCH?
BETTER THAT THAN THE LIVE EXPERIMENTS YOU PERFORM, DON'T YOU THINK?

JUST STANDING THERE LIKE AN IDIOT WOULDN'T IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS!

YES ...
YOU SIMPLETON! HIT THE BOOKS BEFORE EACH OPERATION SO YOU KNOW THE PROCEDURES INSIDE OUT!


WHEN YOUR ARM'S BETTER, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL GO RIGHT BACK TO FLEECING PATIENTS, HUH?

HOW MANY MILLION YEN HAVE YOU LEECHED WITH THIS ARM, YOU SCOUNDREL?

ULP

IF I SECRETLY SEVER ONE...
IF I FAIL TO CONNECT JUST A SINGLE NERVE...
YOU'LL NEVER USE YOUR FINGERS AGAIN.

THAT'D PUT AN END TO THE SAGA OF THE CRIMINAL GENIUS, DR. BLACK JACK!
SHALL I? HEH HEH HEH...
I'D BE SAVING HUNDREDS OF FUTURE PATIENTS FROM MISERY!

BLACK JACK'S FATE IS IN MY HANDS NOW.
SHUT UP !!
THAT'S ENOUGH !!

WHAT INDEED?
HA HA HA!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

NO!
IF I TAMPER JUST SLIGHTLY WITH THIS RADIAL NERVE, HIS RIGHT ARM WILL BE PARALYZED FOR LIFE. WE'LL JUST SAY THE BREAK WAS TOO SERIOUS TO RESET...
CAN'T YOU SHUT UP?!

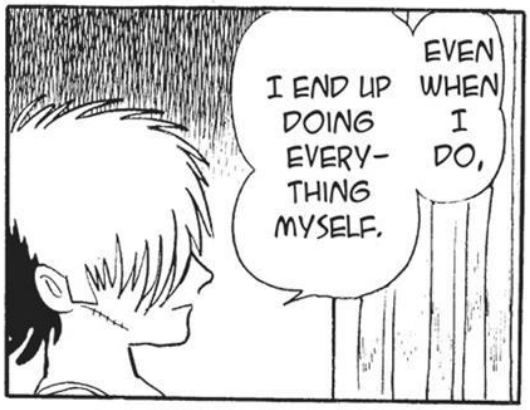
I WASN'T JUST KIDDING, EITHER.
YOU'VE GOT A CRUEL STREAK, DOCTOR.
UNLIKE YOU, I LOVE JUSTICE, AND...
YOU STUMBLED INTO THE WRONG OPERATING ROOM TODAY.
SOMETIMES JUSTICE HAS TO BE SERVED WITH A SCALPEL.
NO!!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. HE DIDN'T INTEND ANY REAL HARM...
APPLY A CAST, TOO ...
ALL RIGHT, SUTURE HIM. CAREFULLY!
I GUESS HE DIDN'T SEVER ANY NERVES AFTER ALL.

THAT DOCTOR'S QUITE SKILLED, ISN'T HE.
HE IS.

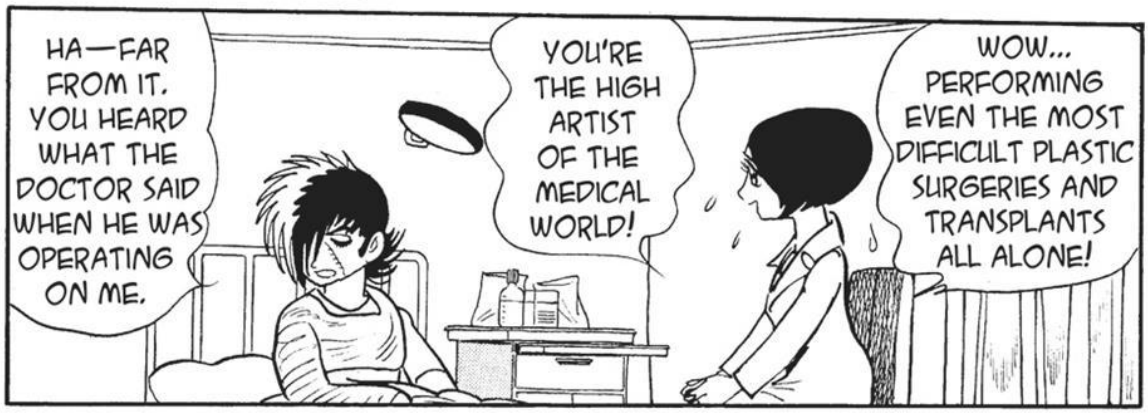
YOUR HEAD WOUNDS HAVE HEALED WELL.

WE HAVE A FEW, BUT...
ARE THERE NO NURSES HERE?

BUT THERE'S NO REASON YOU SHOULD ATTEND TO INJECTIONS, BAN-DAGES ...
WE DON'T REALLY NEED ANY. WE'RE A PRIVATE HOSPITAL. I'LL CARE FOR YOU.

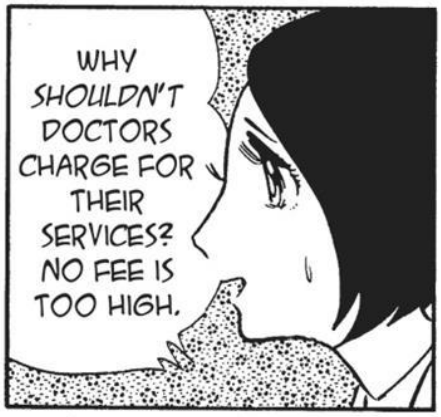

EVEN WHEN I DO,
I END UP DOING EVERY-THING MYSELF.

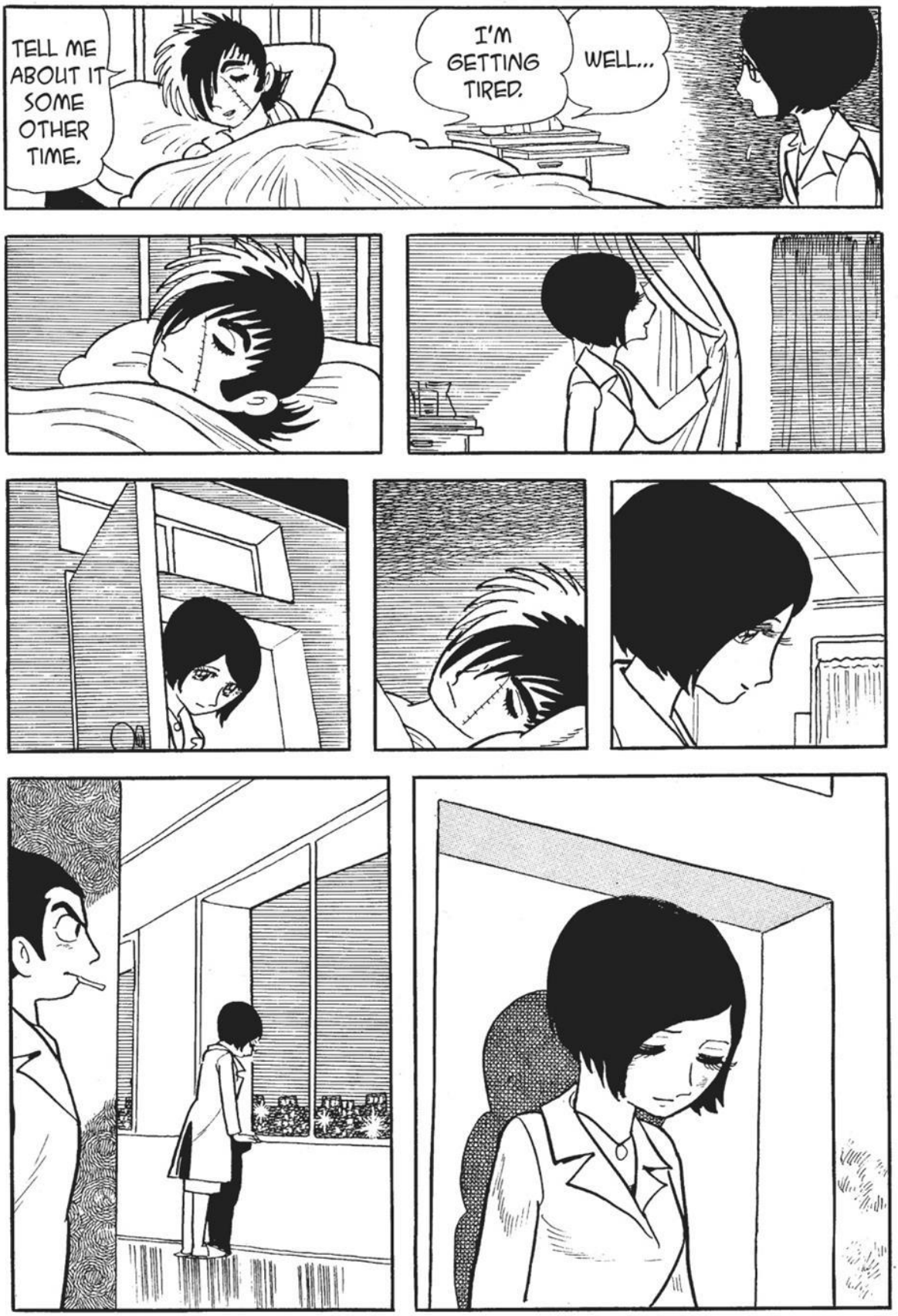
DO YOU WORK ALL ALONE?
YOU DON'T LIKE USING ASSIST-ANTS?


WOW... PERFORMING EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT PLASTIC SURGERIES AND TRANSPLANTS ALL ALONE!
YOU'RE THE HIGH ARTIST OF THE MEDICAL WORLD!
HA—FAR FROM IT. YOU HEARD WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID WHEN HE WAS OPERATING ON ME.

WELL, WELL... SO THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD DEFEND A BACKSTREET DOCTOR.
I STUDIED IN THE U.S. LAST YEAR. ALL OF THE PROFESSORS KNEW YOUR NAME!
THAT'S REALLY SOME-THING!

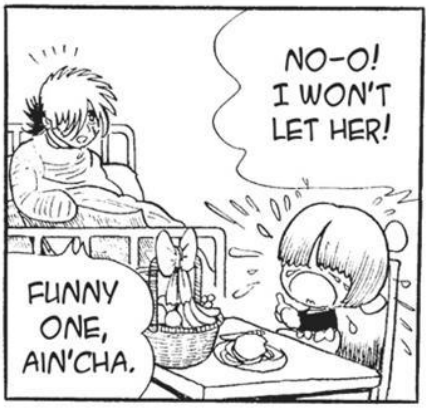
I'M AN OUTCAST.
I CARE ONLY ABOUT MONEY!


WHY SHOULDN'T DOCTORS CHARGE FOR THEIR SERVICES? NO FEE IS TOO HIGH.


TELL ME ABOUT IT SOME OTHER TIME.
I'M GETTING TIRED.
WELL...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GRADUATED FROM A TOP SCHOOL.
THIS DIAGNOSIS IS JUNK!
YOU CHOSE TO BE A DOCTOR.
DID YOU TAP THE PATIENT'S BONE? DID YOU?!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL OSTEOMYELITIS FROM MYOSITIS?
THIS ISN'T CHARM SCHOOL, DON'T YOU SEE?!
THAT'S UNFAIR! DON'T THINK I DON'T—
LIVES ARE IN OUR HANDS!
THEN STOP FLIRTING WITH THE LIKES OF BLACK JACK!
OH YEAH ?

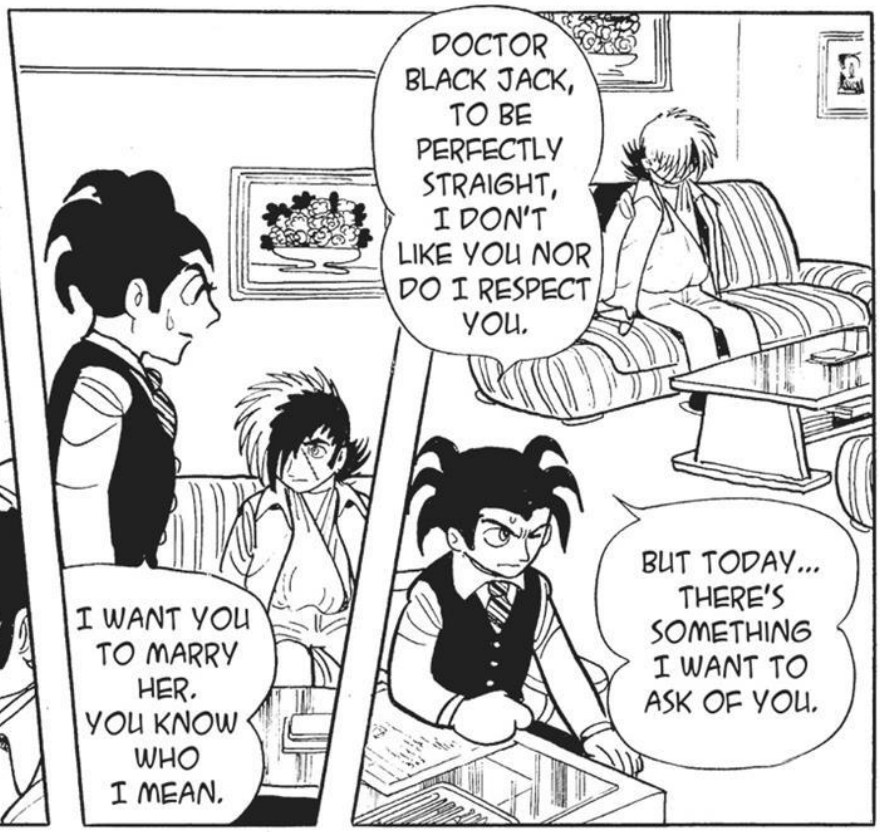
OBVIOUSLY, YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS.
A THOROUGH RE-EXAMINATION FOR THE PATIENT IN ROOM 36!
WHY ?
NOT FOR A FEW MORE DAYS. THE PRESSURE IN MY HEAD'S STILL A BIT HIGH.
DOCTOR? WHEN CAN YOU COME HOME?
HUH?
PINOKO KNOWS.
THAT'S NOT WHY. I'M WOWWIED YOU'LL HAVE AN AFFAIR!
YOU'RE USED TO MINDING THE HOUSE, RIGHT?
I CAN SHEE IT IN HER EYES.
THAT DEEP-IN-LOVE GAJE.
THAT LADY DOCTOR LOVES YOU...


NO-O! I WON'T LET HER!
FUNNY ONE, AIN'CHA.

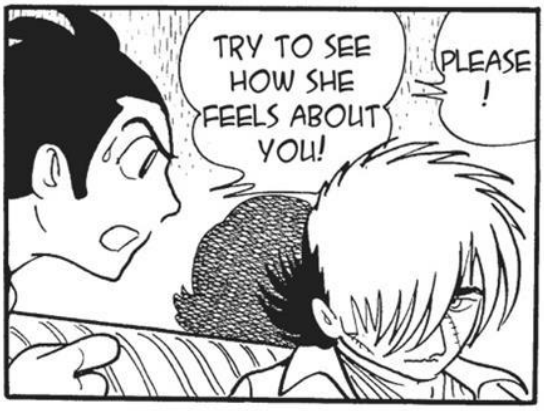
GO SEE HER, SHE CAN HELP.
WAAAH

OUCH. I CUT MYSELF.

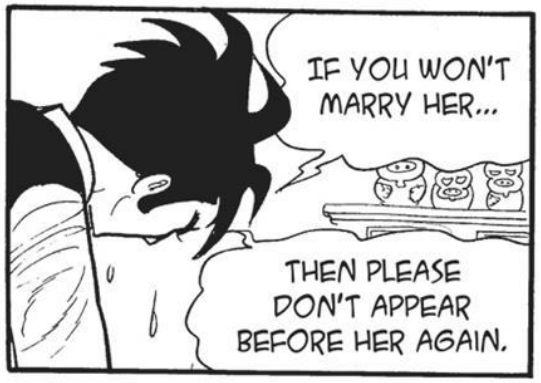
SHE LOVES YOU WITH ALL HER HEART. UNLIKE ME, SHE RESPECTS NO ONE MORE THAN YOU.

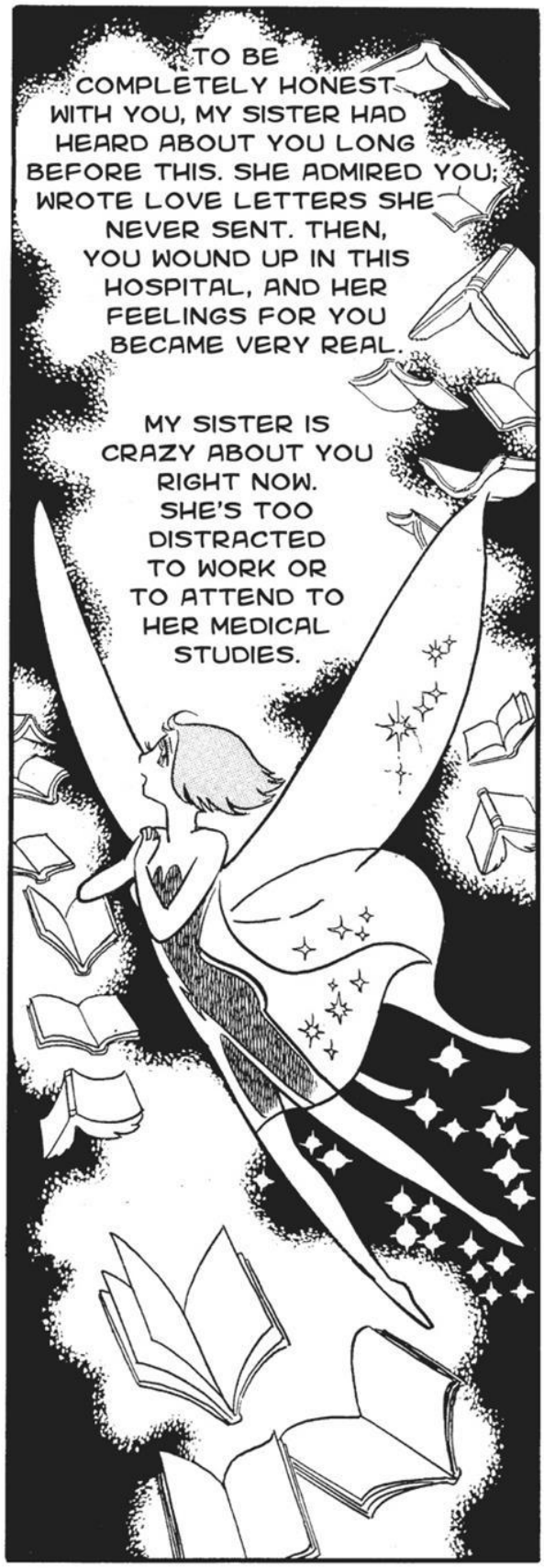

I WANT YOU TO MARRY HER. YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, TO BE PERFECTLY STRAIGHT, I DON'T LIKE YOU NOR DO I RESPECT YOU.
BUT TODAY... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK OF YOU.

THE TRUTH IS... SHE'S MY ONLY LITTLE SISTER.


TRY TO SEE HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT YOU!
PLEASE!

...


IF YOU WON'T MARRY HER...
THEN PLEASE DON'T APPEAR BEFORE HER AGAIN.


TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU, MY SISTER HAD HEARD ABOUT YOU LONG BEFORE THIS. SHE ADMIRED YOU; WROTE LOVE LETTERS SHE NEVER SENT. THEN, YOU WOUND UP IN THIS HOSPITAL, AND HER FEELINGS FOR YOU BECAME VERY REAL.
MY SISTER IS CRAZY ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW. SHE'S TOO DISTRACTED TO WORK OR TO ATTEND TO HER MEDICAL STUDIES.

IT'S DR. BLACK JACK! HE'S GONE!
HIS ROOM'S EMPTY!
HE'S GONE!
HE'S GONE HOME.
WHAT?!
HE WAS A PATIENT AND HIS TREATMENT IS OVER.
FORGET HIM! YOU'RE A DOCTOR, OKAY?
Y-YOU CHASED HIM AWAY, DIDN'T YOU, BROTHER! IT'S YOUR DOING...
WAIT!
I HATE YOU!
YOU SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON YOUR STUDIES. NOW'S NOT THE TIME!

COME BACK! WE NEED TO TALK!
WAIT!
ROAR
I WAS WRONG!
SLAM

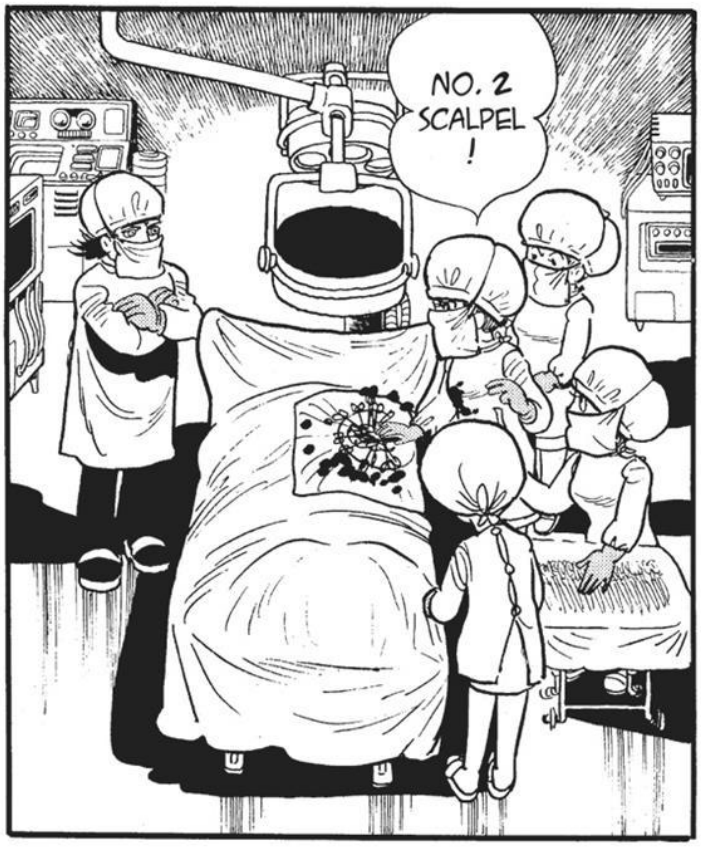
BROTHER...!
SKREEEE
BROTHER! C-CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WAIT, SHE'S A DOCTOR.
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE ...
HE WAS HIT?
OH... YOU...
HELLO ?
RRRRRING
MY RIGHT ARM'S STILL OUT OF COMMIS-SION.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO ?
UNLESS HE HAS SURGERY NOW, HE WON'T MAKE IT!
HE HAS AN AIR EMBO-LISM.
PLEASE, COME RIGHT AWAY!
YOUR BROTHER WAS IN AN ACCIDENT? CRITICALLY INJURED?

I'M A DOCTOR, TOO!
I'LL PERFORM THE SURGERY!
DID I ASK YOU TO PERFORM THE OPERATION?

BESIDES, IT'S BETTER IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BE OF ANY HELP.

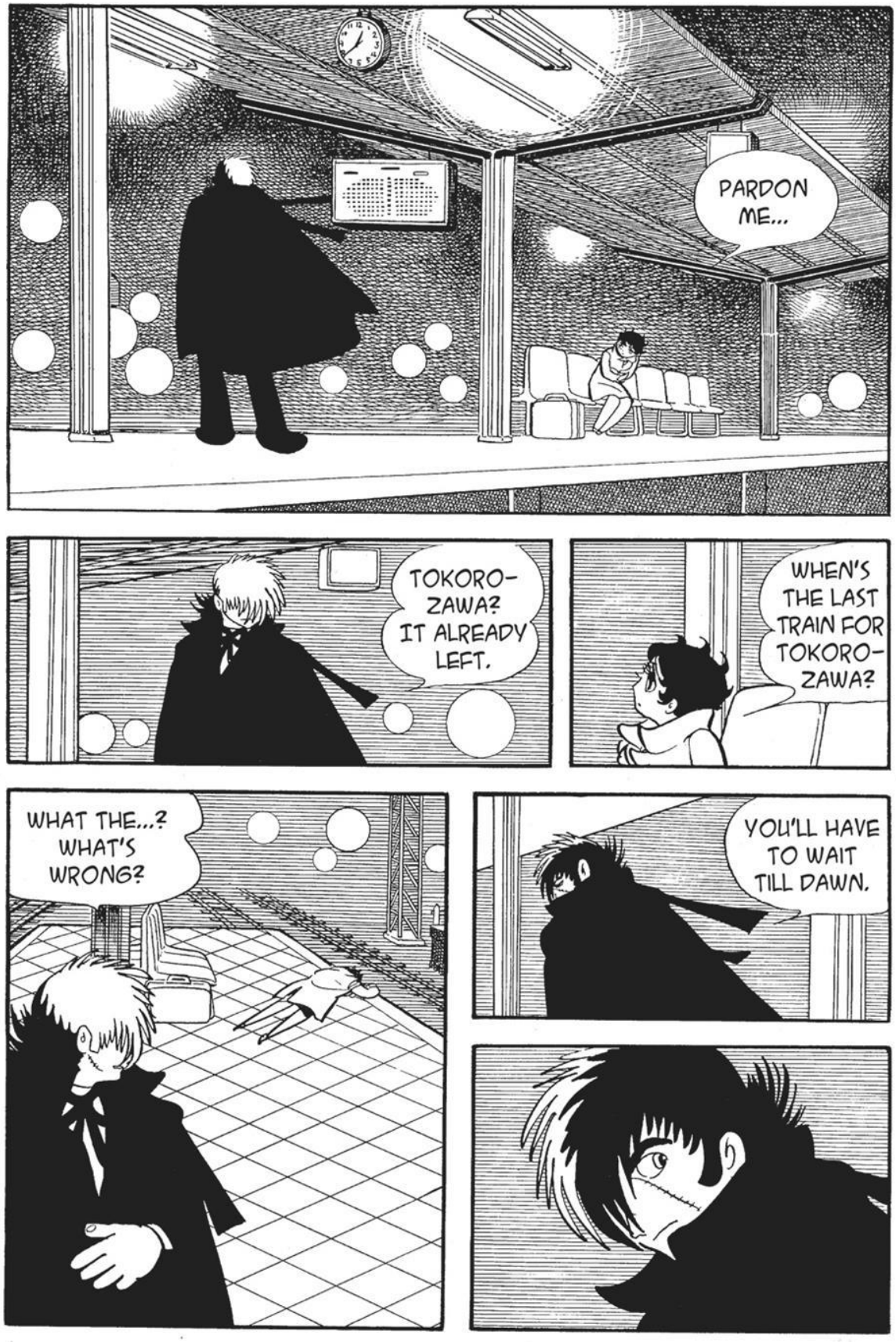
I'LL BE THERE.

CORRECT ME IF I'M ABOUT TO MESS UP?
COULD YOU PLEASE PRESIDE AND
I SWEAR I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!

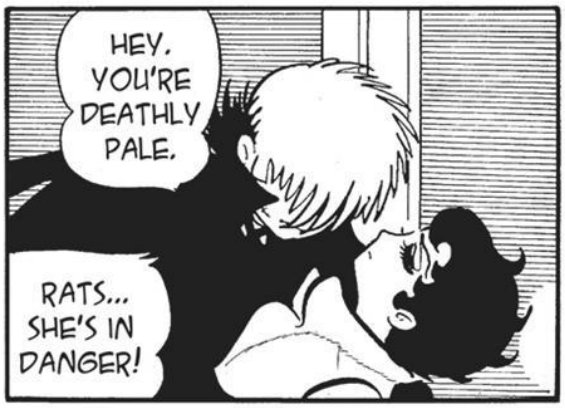

NO. 2 SCALPEL!

YES, IF YOU'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT.
WILL YOU BE FINE?

A WOMAN'S CASE


PARDON ME...
TOKORO-ZAWA? IT ALREADY LEFT.
WHEN'S THE LAST TRAIN FOR TOKORO-ZAWA?
WHAT THE...? WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL DAWN.

IS THERE A BED I COULD BORROW?

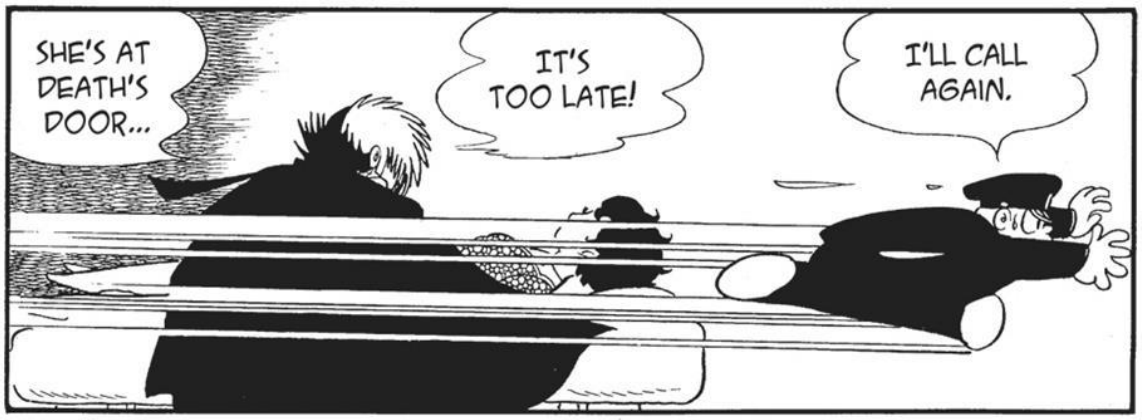

HEY. YOU'RE DEATHLY PALE.
RATS... SHE'S IN DANGER!

RIGHT NOW !
H-HELLO, WE NEED AN AMBULANCE. IT'S THE TRAIN STATION.
HMM, A "FROG BELLY." MUST BE SEVERE ASCITES.

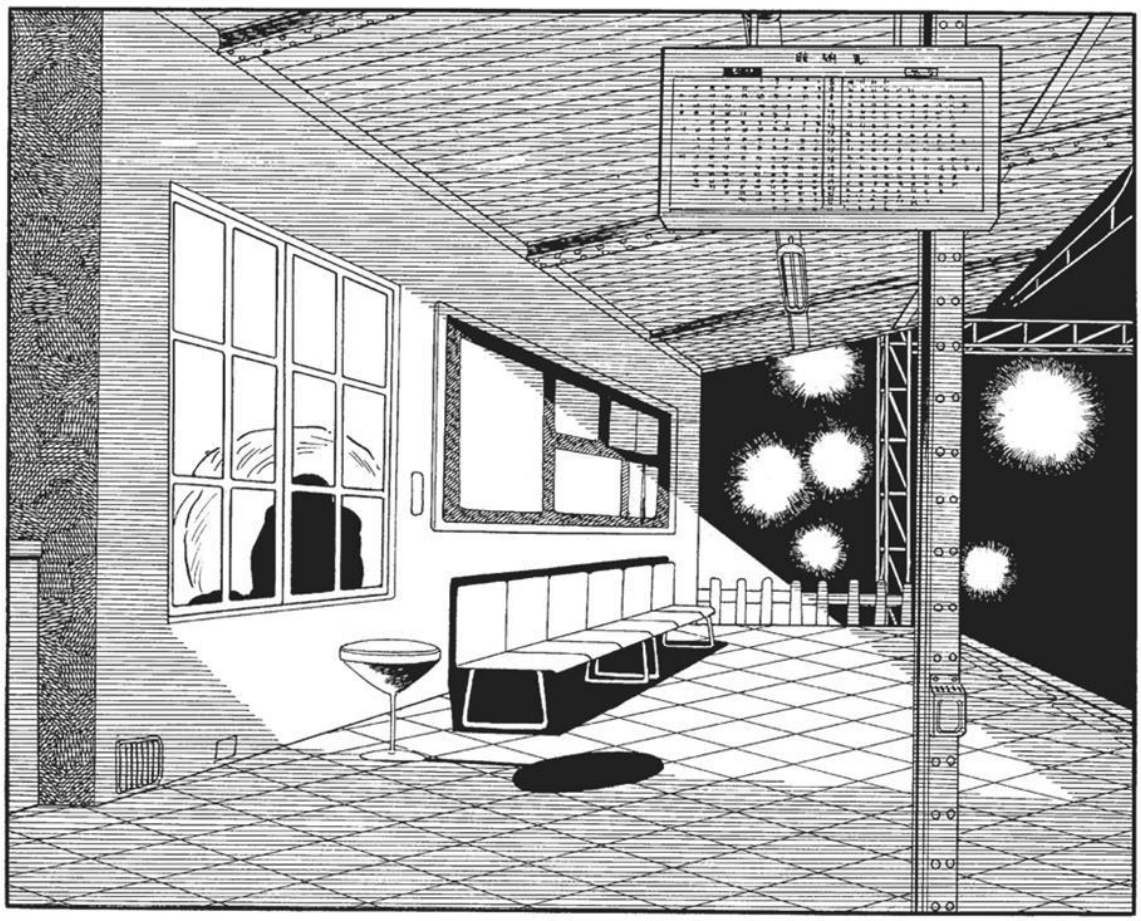
DUMB ASS!
I FORGOT TO TELL THEM WHICH STATION.
OOPS!

HM ...
NOT HERE YET.

SHE VOMITED BLOOD... COULD BE CIRRHOSIS.

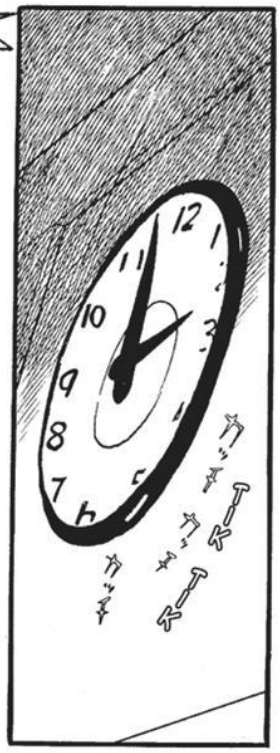

SHE'S AT DEATH'S DOOR...
IT'S TOO LATE!
I'LL CALL AGAIN.

NOTE: MEDUSA HEAD = A SYMPTOM WHERE VEINS RADIATING FROM THE NAVEL BECOME MANIFEST

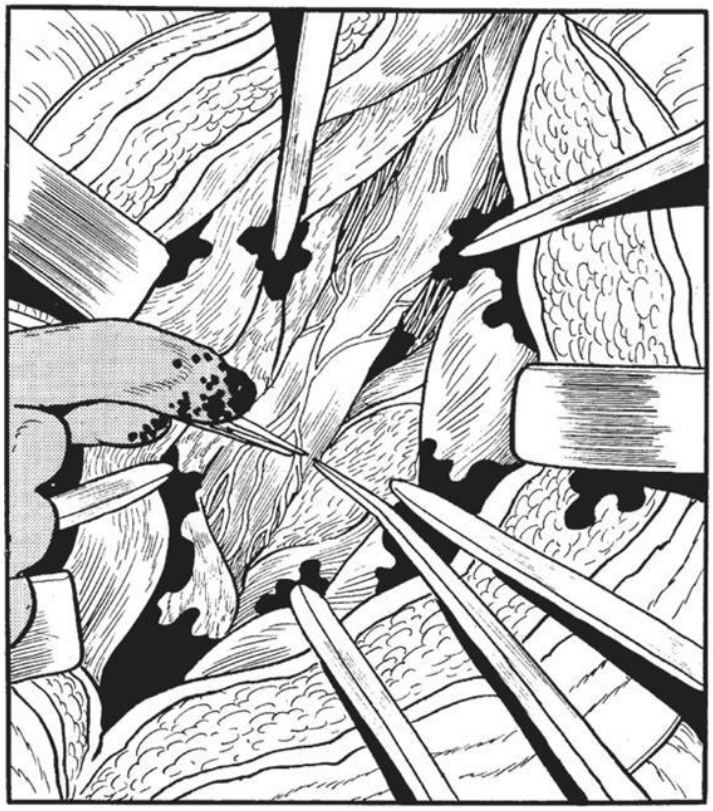


WOEEE

TRANS-
FUSION!
TYPE A!
HM?!


TICK
TICK

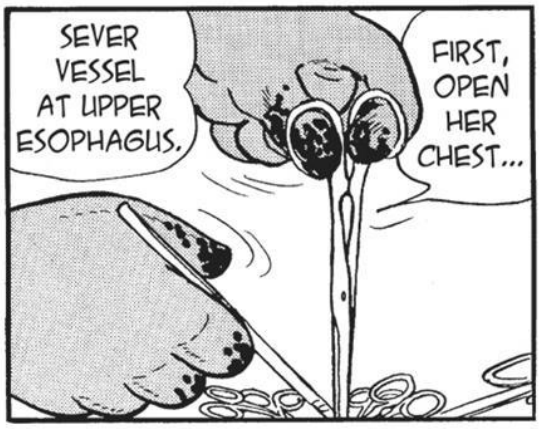
CIRRHOSIS. IT CAUSED A VARICEAL RUPTURE.
WHAT DID SHE COME DOWN WITH?



WHAT ?!

NAH.
NEED ANY HELP?

HOW CAN HE TREAT HER HERE?


SEVER VESSEL AT UPPER ESOPHAGUS.
FIRST, OPEN HER CHEST...

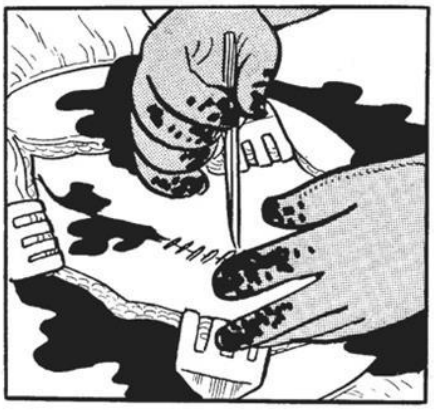
I CAN'T WAIT TO SCRAM.
DON'T LOOK AT ME WEIRD.
YOU THINK I'M DOING THIS FOR FUN?

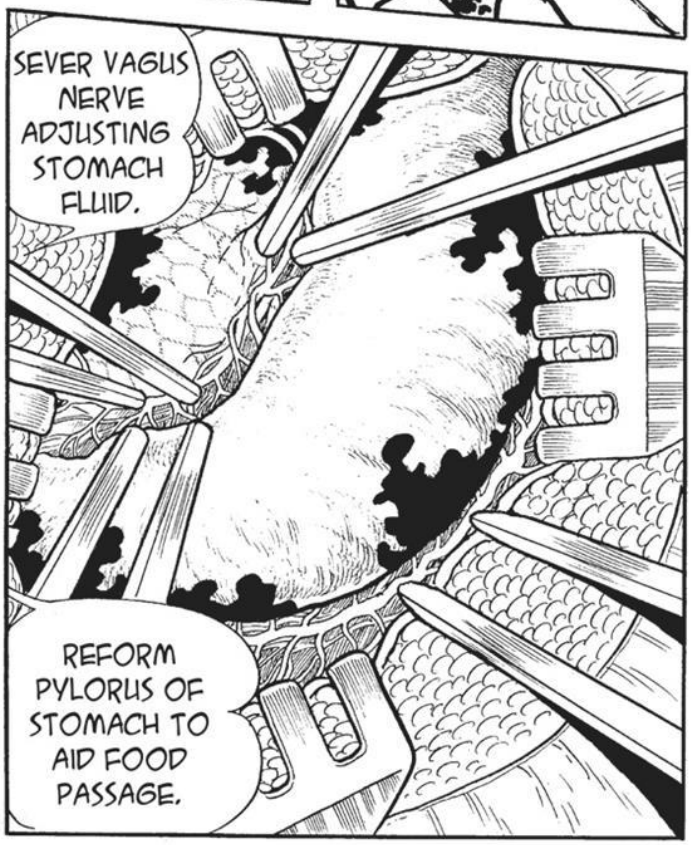
NEXT, SEVER VESSEL AT CARDIA OF STOMACH.

HE'S A GOD.
WOW ...

REMOVE SPLEEN.
NEXT HER ABDOMEN ...

BETTER CLOSE HER UP ...
THAT OUGHT TO DO.




SEVER VAGUS NERVE ADJUSTING STOMACH FLUID.
REFORM PYLORUS OF STOMACH TO AID FOOD PASSAGE.

WHAT A CHUMP I AM !
I ONLY INTENDED TO GIVE HER FIRST AID.
I GOT CARRIED AWAY...

NOW, THAT WAS SURGERY...
PLEASE HANDLE IT FROM HERE.

DOCTOR, SHE'S WAKING UP.

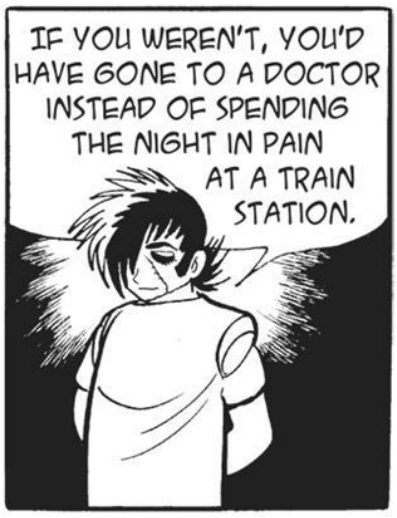
THANK YOU.

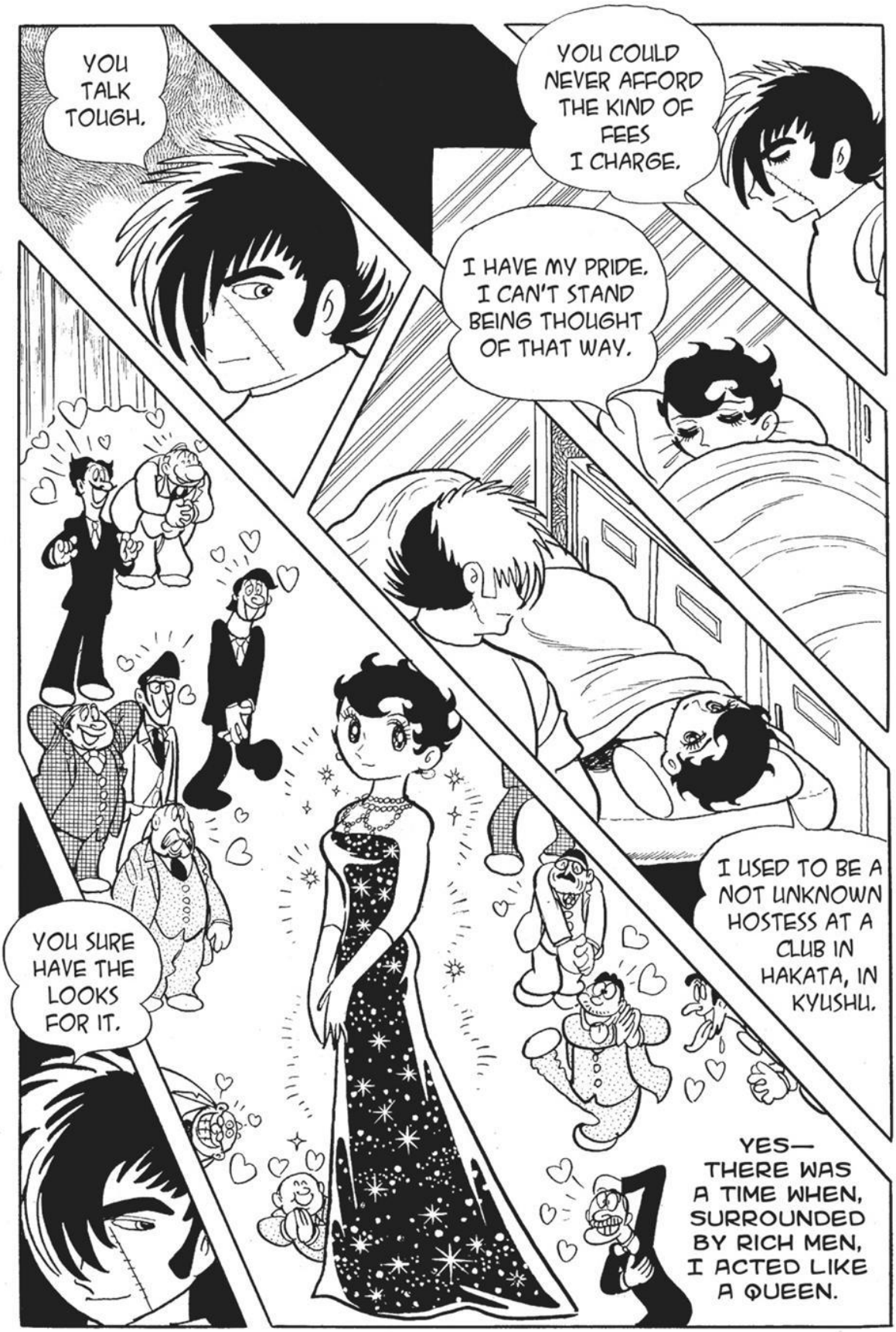
I KNOW THAT.

BUT I'M BROKE.
I'D LIKE TO PAY YOU...

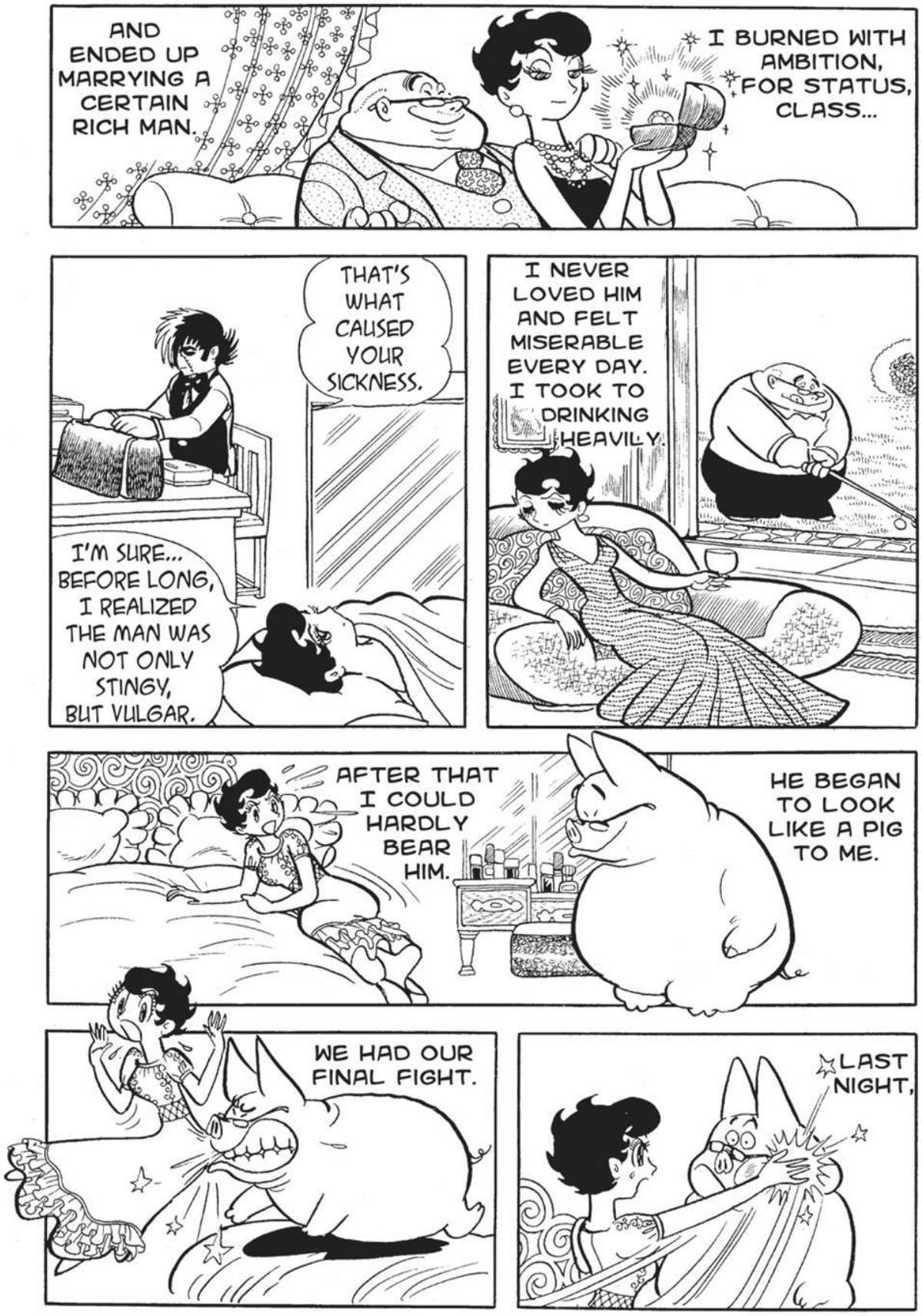
LOOK, IT'S OKAY.
I WILL. I SWEAR TO GOD THAT I'LL PAY YOU.

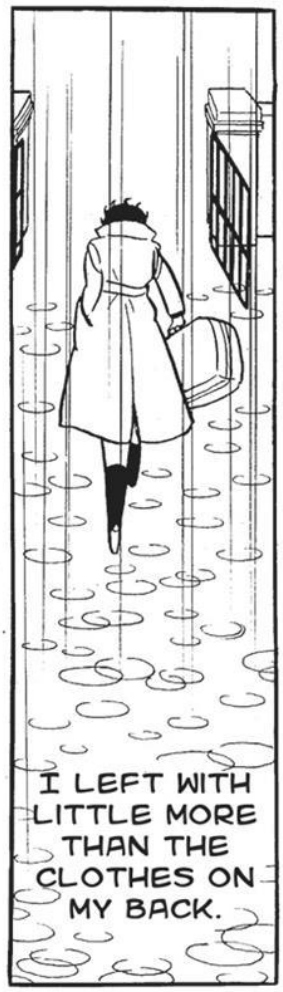
ONE DAY, DOCTOR, I WILL PAY YOU.


IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU'D HAVE GONE TO A DOCTOR INSTEAD OF SPENDING THE NIGHT IN PAIN AT A TRAIN STATION.

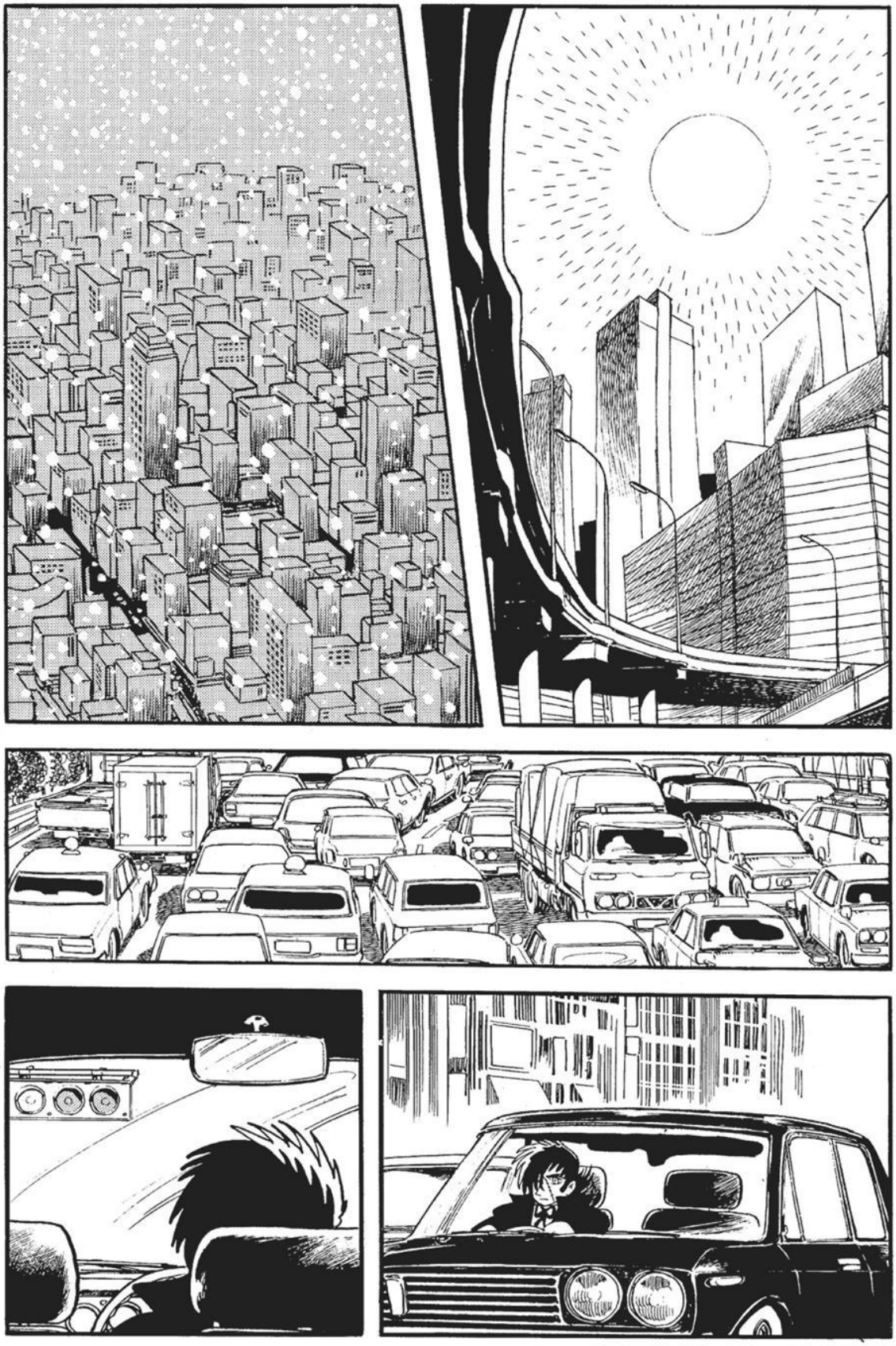


NOTE: "CLUB" = A HIGH-PRICED BAR LOUNGE WHERE ATTRACTIVE WOMEN, RATHER LIKE THE GEISHA OF OLD, OFFER COMPANIONSHIP BUT ONLY ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIPS AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION

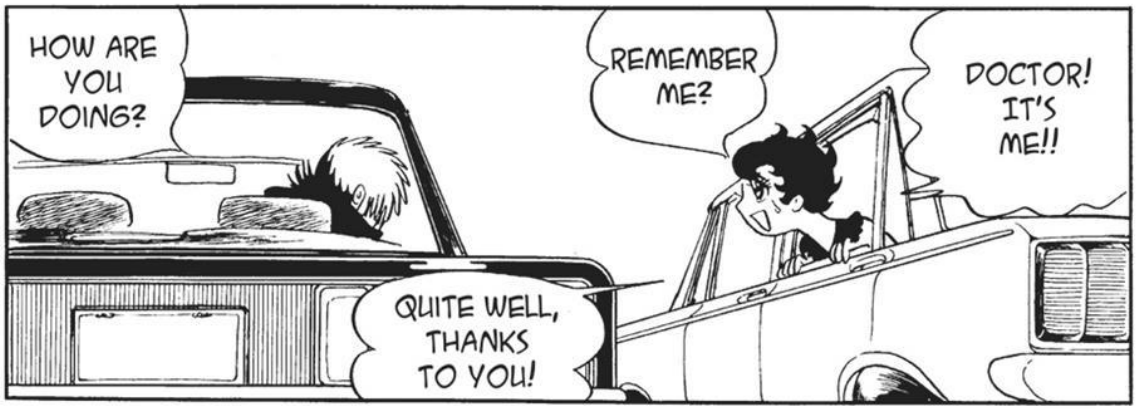

AND ENDED UP MARRYING A CERTAIN RICH MAN.
I BURNED WITH AMBITION, FOR STATUS, CLASS...
THAT'S WHAT CAUSED YOUR SICKNESS.
I'M SURE... BEFORE LONG, I REALIZED THE MAN WAS NOT ONLY STINGY, BUT VULGAR.
I NEVER LOVED HIM AND FELT MISERABLE EVERY DAY. I TOOK TO DRINKING HEAVILY.
AFTER THAT I COULD HARDLY BEAR HIM.
HE BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE A PIG TO ME.
WE HAD OUR FINAL FIGHT.
LAST NIGHT,



NOTE: "RAMEN," OR NOODLE SOUP, IS AN INEXPENSIVE TREAT COMMON AROUND TRAIN STATIONS.



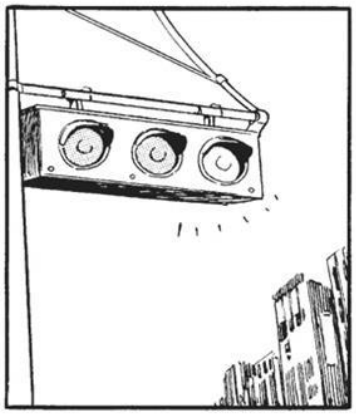
AH !


HOW ARE YOU DOING?
REMEMBER ME?
DOCTOR! IT'S ME!!
QUITE WELL, THANKS TO YOU!

YES, I REMARRIED. YOU KNOW WHAT? WHY DON'T YOU DROP BY FOR A VISIT?
GOOD FOR YOU

YOU SURE SEEM BETTER OFF NOW THAN THEN.

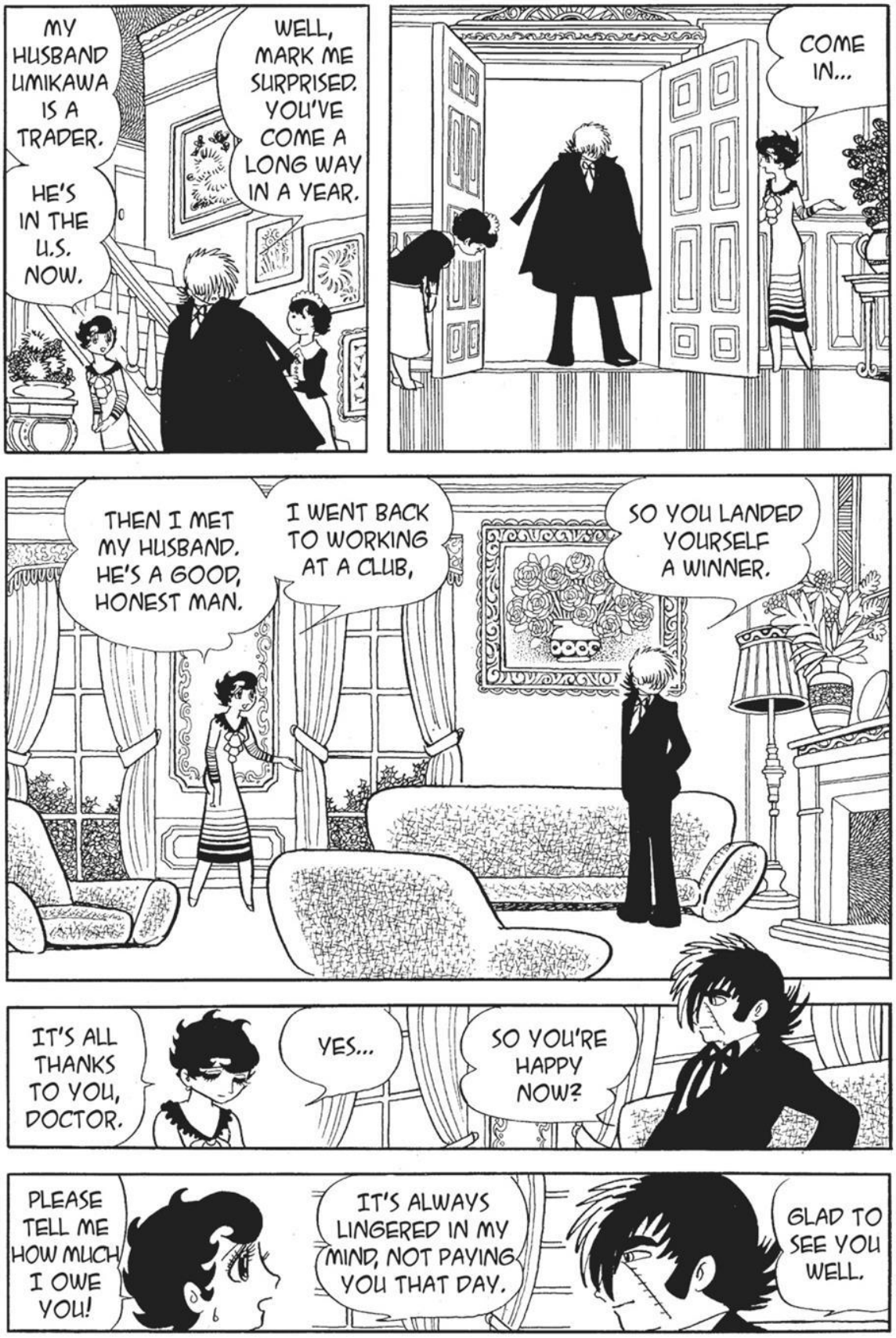
WHAT LUCK !
WELL, IMAGINE MEETING YOU HERE.



YOU HAVE TO !
IT'S JUST UP THE STREET!

AND THANKS FOR ASKING, BUT I'M WORKING.

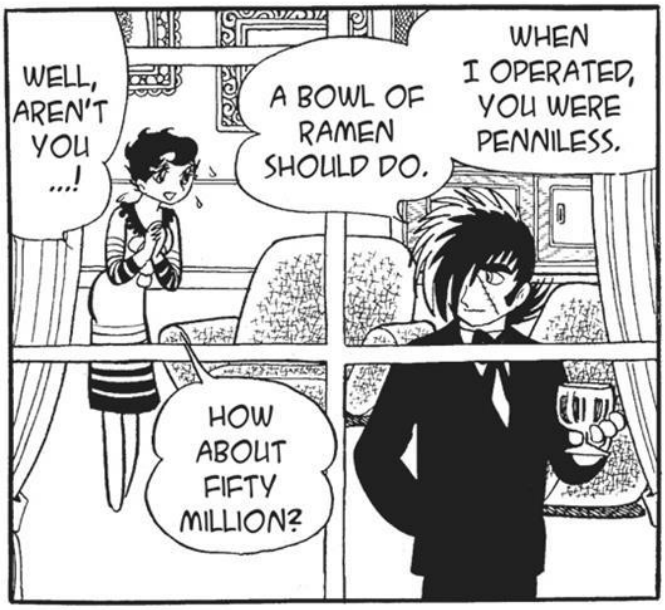
JUST FOLLOW MY CAR, OKAY?
JUST TEN MINUTES, PLEASE!
I'VE NO TIME.
THIS WAY!


MY HUSBAND UMIKAWA IS A TRADER.
HE'S IN THE U.S. NOW.
WELL, MARK ME SURPRISED. YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY IN A YEAR.
COME IN...
THEN I MET MY HUSBAND. HE'S A GOOD, HONEST MAN.
I WENT BACK TO WORKING AT A CLUB,
SO YOU LANDED YOURSELF A WINNER.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, DOCTOR.
YES...
SO YOU'RE HAPPY NOW?
PLEASE TELL ME HOW MUCH I OWE YOU!
IT'S ALWAYS LINGERED IN MY MIND, NOT PAYING YOU THAT DAY.
GLAD TO SEE YOU WELL.

THAT WAS THEN! NOW, YOU CAN NAME YOUR PRICE, AND I CAN PAY IT.
EVEN TENS OF MILLIONS OF YEN COULDN'T REPAY WHAT YOU DID FOR ME.

DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO TREAT ME TO A BOWL OF RAMEN?

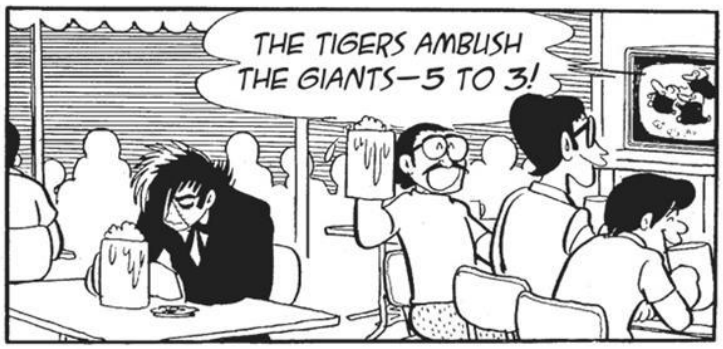
WHY NOT ?
I DON'T WANT THAT SORT OF MONEY.

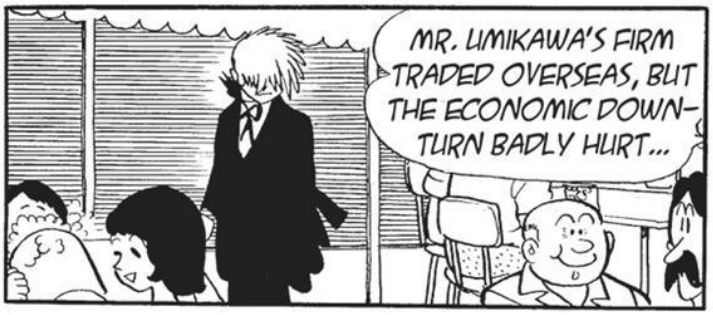

WELL, AREN'T YOU ...!
A BOWL OF RAMEN SHOULD DO.
WHEN I OPERATED, YOU WERE PENNILESS.
HOW ABOUT FIFTY MILLION?

I'LL USE IT HOW I WISH!
IT'S YOUR HUSBAND'S MONEY.
HIS MONEY IS MY MONEY!
IT'S NOT YOUR OWN, IS IT?

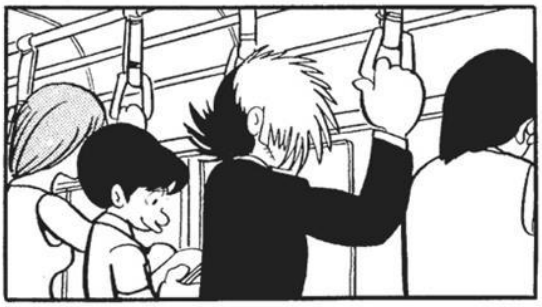
WHY ?
YOU'RE ODD!
IF YOU TREATED ME TO RAMEN. OUT OF YOUR OWN HEART.
FINE, BUT I'D BE MORE GLAD...

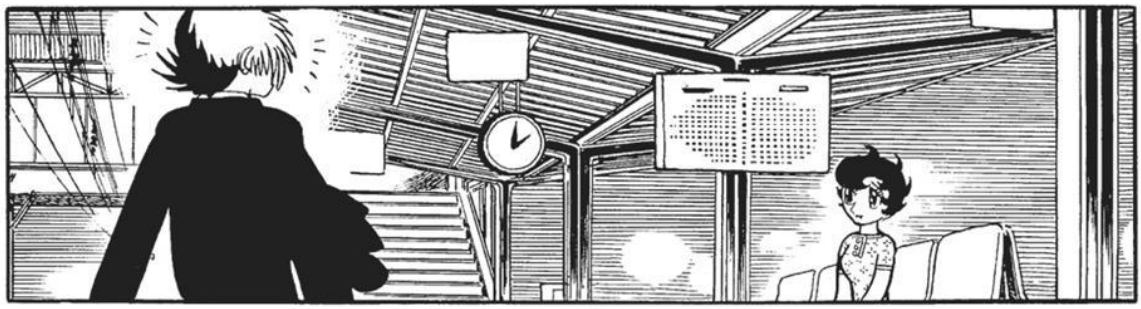
I'M NOT WILD ABOUT PEOPLE WHO FLAUNT THEIR MONEY.
OKAY, THEN LET ME BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU.
SLAP
MY ONLY ASSETS ARE MY BEAUTY AND MY YOUTH.
BUT LET ME SAY THIS...
I... I'M SORRY.
JUST GO EASY ON THAT BOTTLE.
IF I USE THEM TO WIN HAPPINESS,
HOW'S THAT WRONG?





NOTE: "TIGERS" AND "GIANTS" = BASEBALL TEAMS WITH A STORIED RIVALRY MUCH LIKE THAT BETWEEN THE RED SOX AND THE YANKEES





I THOUGHT I MIGHT SEE YOU IF I WAITED HERE.
WELL, HELLO AGAIN.

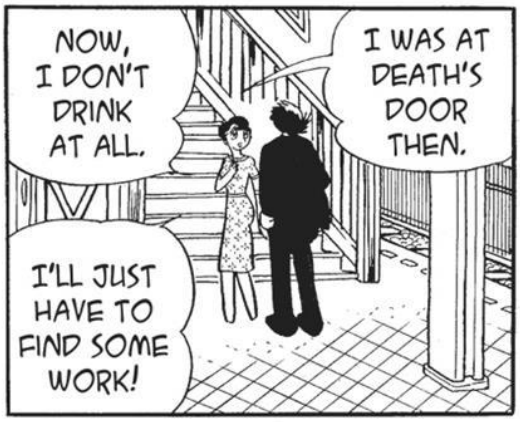
SO YOU'RE BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE WHEN WE MET HERE.

OH NO. IT'S NOT THE SAME!

THEY TOOK EVERY-THING?
THEY SAID BANK-RUPT.
STRIPPED CLEAN...

AH... YOU SAW THE NEWS ON TV?
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR LOSS.
THERE YOU HAVE IT.

ALSO... I MANAGED TO HIDE THIS AWAY SO THEY COULDN'T TAKE IT...

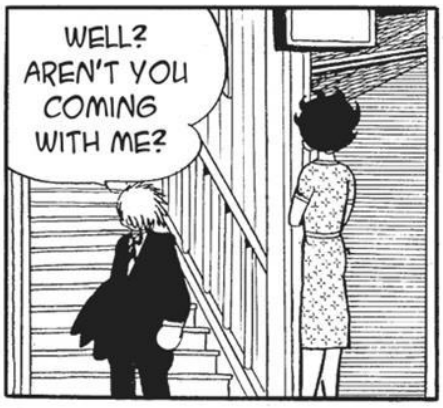

NOW, I DON'T DRINK AT ALL.
I WAS AT DEATH'S DOOR THEN.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOME WORK!

IT WON'T BUY MORE THAN RAMEN ...

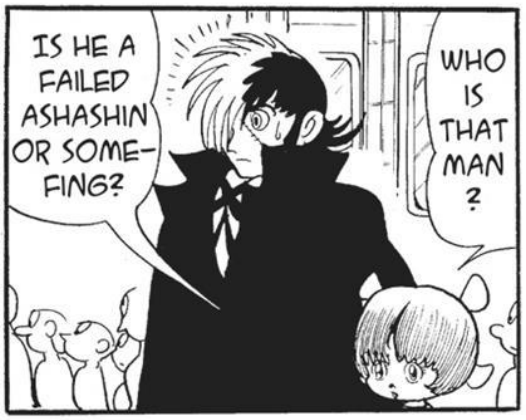
WHAT'S THIS ?
YOUR FEE.

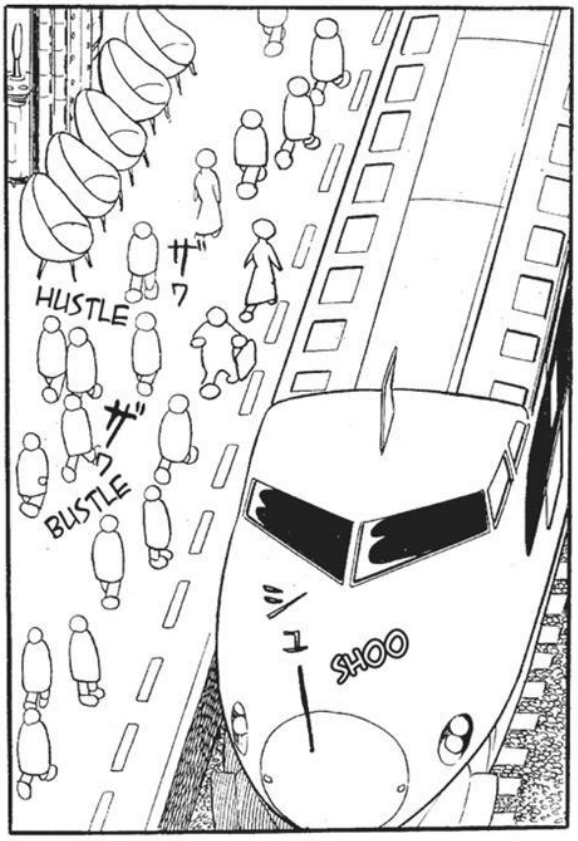
THERE'S THIS GREAT RAMEN SHOP BEHIND THE STATION ...

THIS WILL DO!
SORRY IT'S SO LITTLE.


WELL? AREN'T YOU COMING WITH ME?

TWO DARK DOCTORS

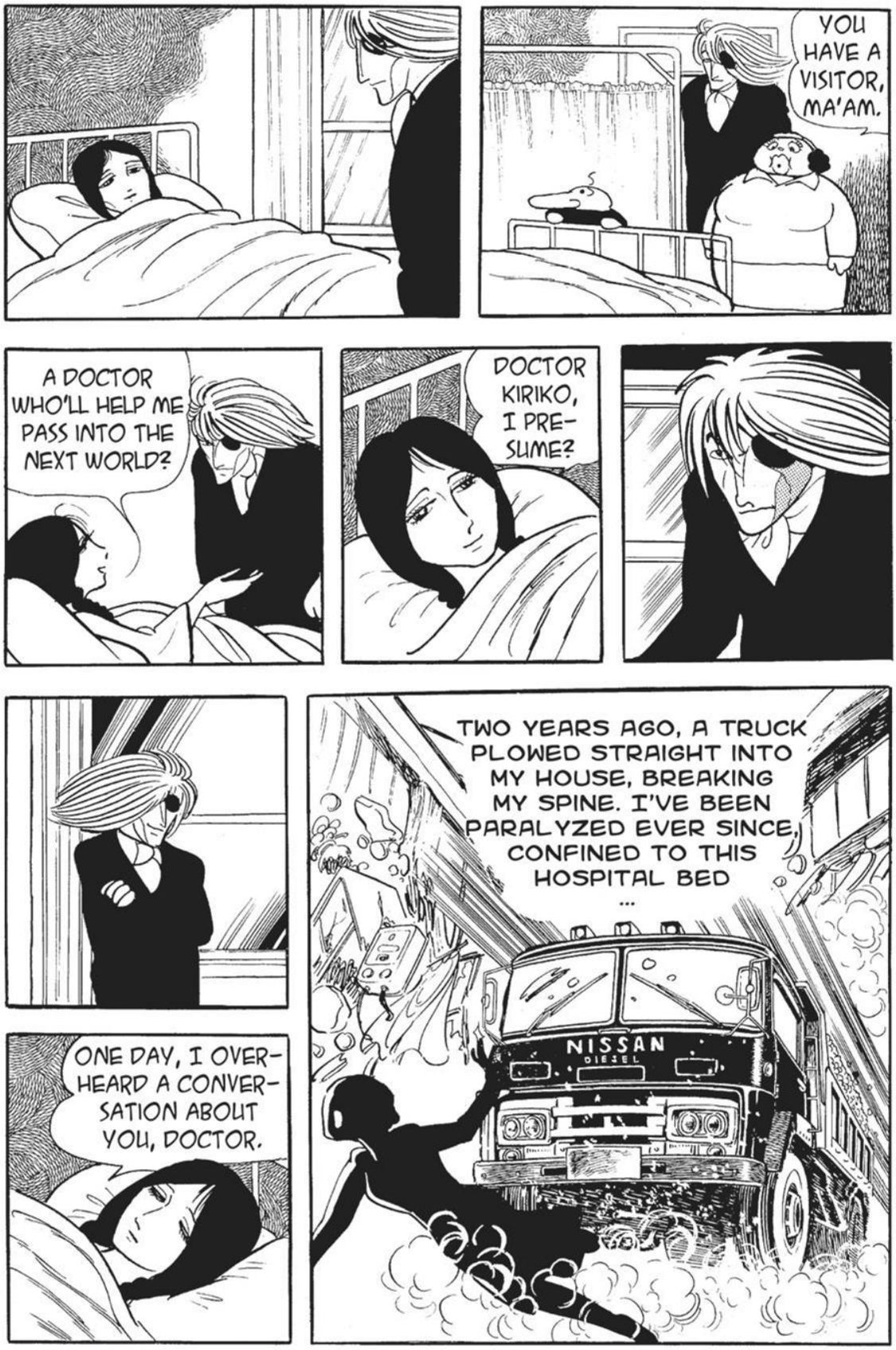

IS HE A FAILED ASHASHIN OR SOME-FING?
WHO IS THAT MAN ?

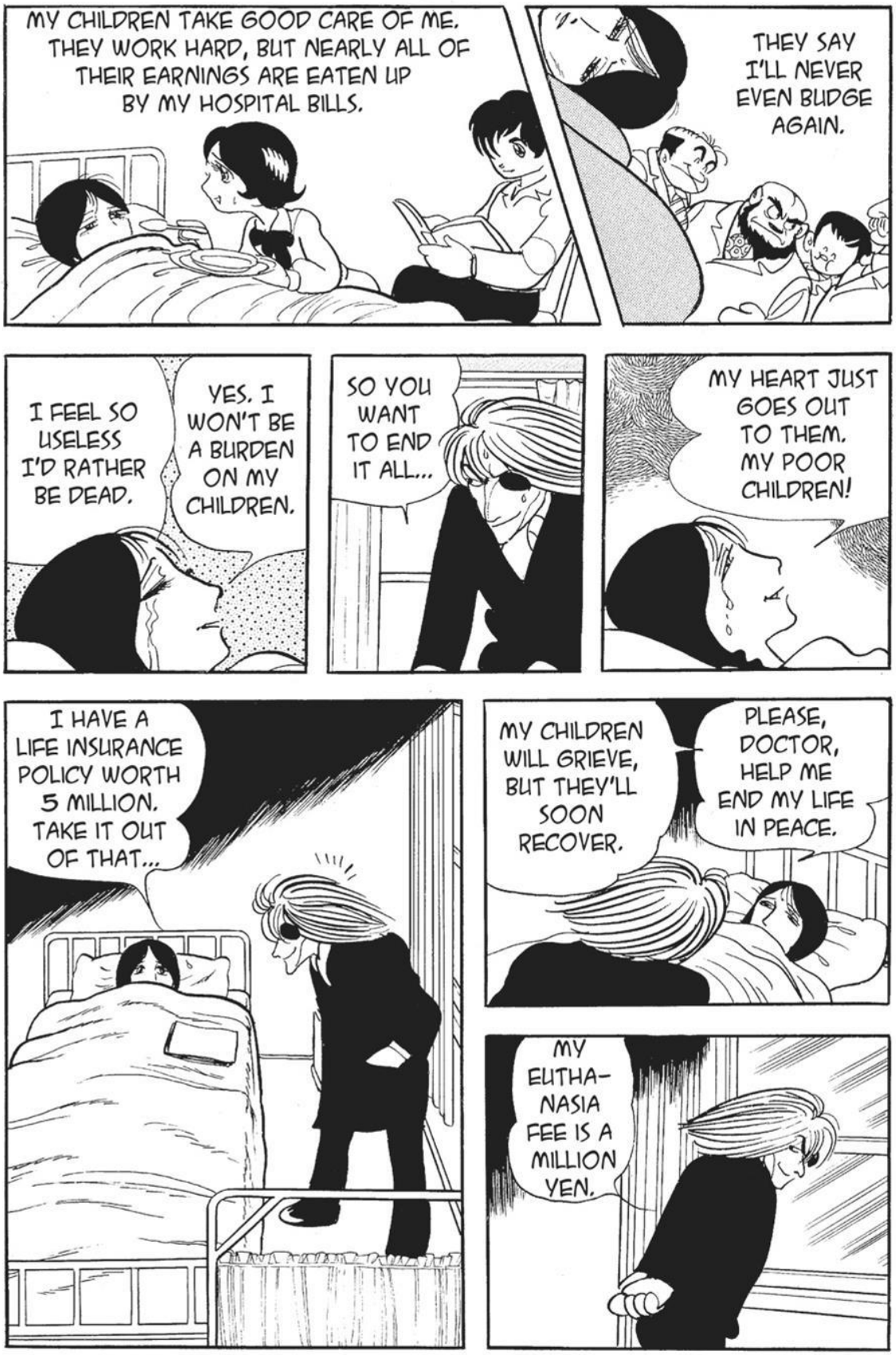

HUSTLE
BUSTLE
SHOO

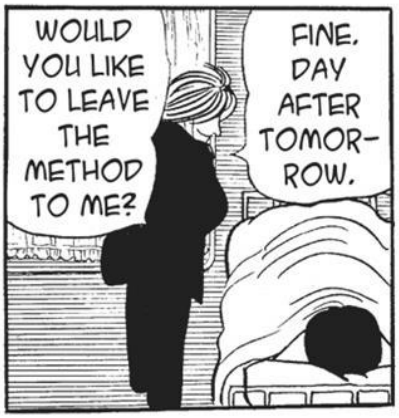
BETTER NOT BE SHOME FLOOZY!
IF IT'S A MAN IT'S OK.

OH, YEAH?
PINOKO, YOU GO ON AHEAD TO THE HOTEL. I NEED TO SEE ABOUT SOMETHING!

DOCTOR KIRIKO!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS TOWN?
WE MEET AGAIN, DR. BLACK JACK!
I SAVE PEOPLE. I HELP SUFFERING PEOPLE END THEIR LIVES COMFORTABLY, WITHOUT THE LAW INTERFERING!
DOCTOR, PLEASE. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE CRUDE.
WHO'RE YOU WHACKING THIS TIME?
I'VE AN APPOINT-MENT TO KEEP.
BYE!
FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, YOU SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES. FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, I END THEM.
WE'RE NOT SO DIF-FERENT, YOU AND I!


YOU HAVE A VISITOR, MA'AM.
A DOCTOR WHO'LL HELP ME PASS INTO THE NEXT WORLD?
DOCTOR KIRIKO, I PRE-SUME?
TWO YEARS AGO, A TRUCK PLOWED STRAIGHT INTO MY HOUSE, BREAKING MY SPINE. I'VE BEEN PARALYZED EVER SINCE, CONFINED TO THIS HOSPITAL BED ...
ONE DAY, I OVER-HEARD A CONVER-SATION ABOUT YOU, DOCTOR.
NISSAN
DIESEL

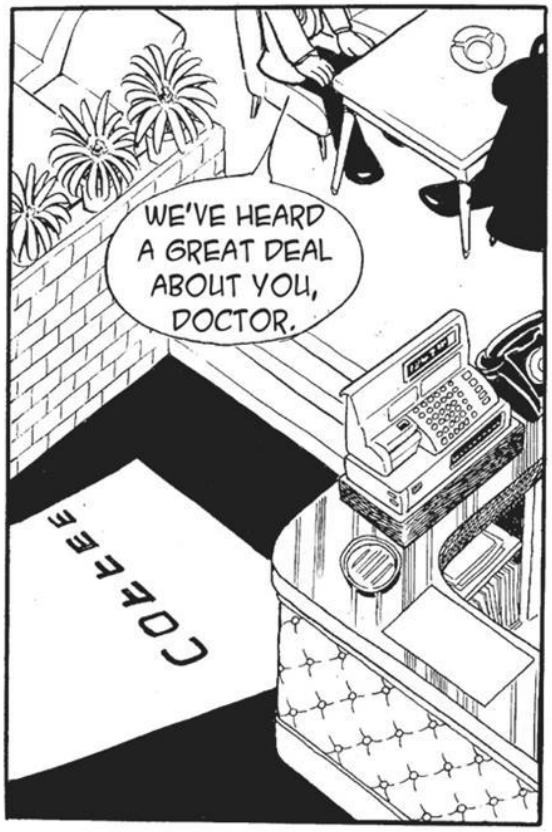

MY CHILDREN TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME. THEY WORK HARD, BUT NEARLY ALL OF THEIR EARNINGS ARE EATEN UP BY MY HOSPITAL BILLS.
THEY SAY I'LL NEVER EVEN BUDGE AGAIN.
I FEEL SO USELESS I'D RATHER BE DEAD.
YES. I WON'T BE A BURDEN ON MY CHILDREN.
SO YOU WANT TO END IT ALL...
MY HEART JUST GOES OUT TO THEM. MY POOR CHILDREN!
I HAVE A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY WORTH 5 MILLION. TAKE IT OUT OF THAT...
MY CHILDREN WILL GRIEVE, BUT THEY'LL SOON RECOVER.
PLEASE, DOCTOR, HELP ME END MY LIFE IN PEACE.
MY EUTHA-NASIA FEE IS A MILLION YEN.

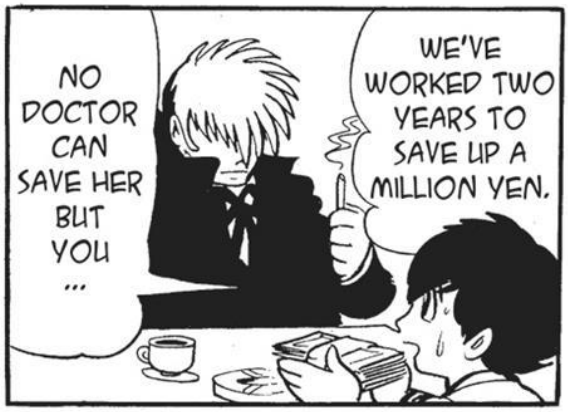

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE THE METHOD TO ME?
FINE. DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW.

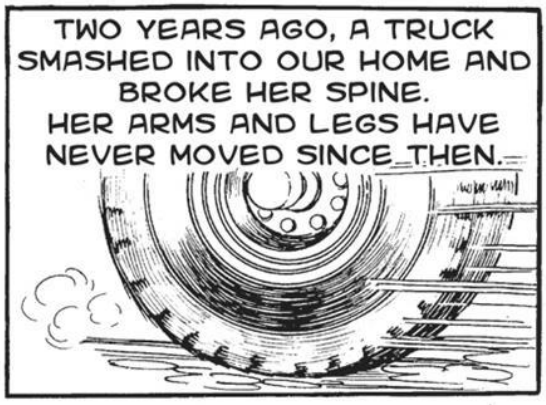
WHEN?

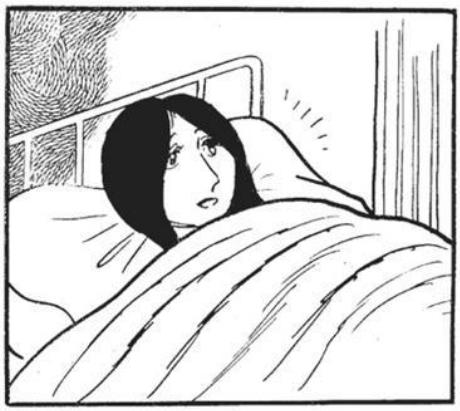
THIS IS FINE.

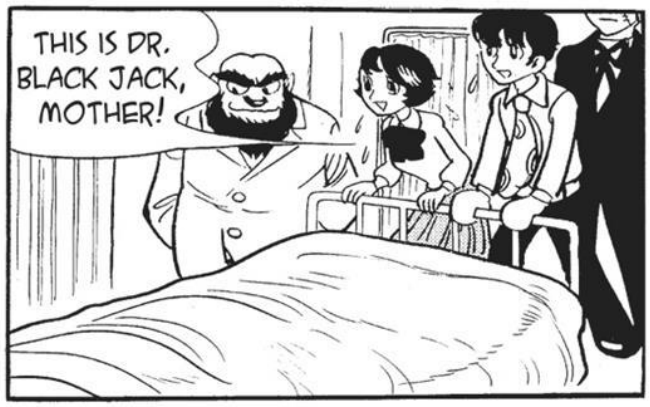
WE ASKED FOR YOU FOR HER SAKE!
PLEASE SAVE OUR MOTHER!


WE'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU, DOCTOR.
COFFEE


NO DOCTOR CAN SAVE HER BUT YOU ...
WE'VE WORKED TWO YEARS TO SAVE UP A MILLION YEN.


TWO YEARS AGO, A TRUCK SMASHED INTO OUR HOME AND BROKE HER SPINE.
HER ARMS AND LEGS HAVE NEVER MOVED SINCE THEN.




THIS IS DR. BLACK JACK, MOTHER!

6TH CERVICAL VERTEBRA AND 3RD THORACIC VERTEBRA

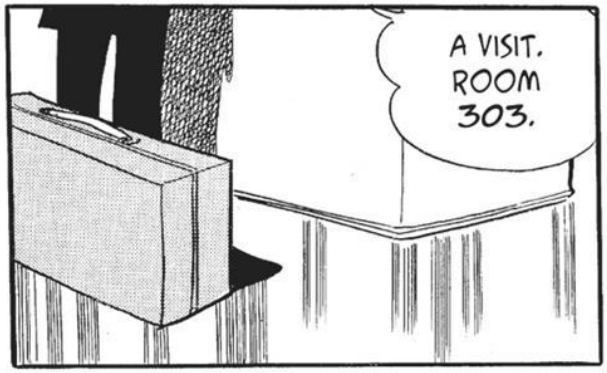
SHOW ME THE X-RAYS, PLEASE.

SHE CAN'T EVEN ROLL OVER.
SHE CAN ONLY MOVE HER HEAD.

HER 3RD CERVICAL VERTEBRA IS CRACKED, TOO.
I ADVISE YOU TO FORGET ABOUT IT, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE UNLICENSED.
YOU MAY BE A WORLD-FAMOUS GENIUS, BUT IT'S HOPELESS.

TWO DAYS FROM NOW, IN THE EVENING.

DON'T FAIL AND CAUSE RESPIRATORY PARALYSIS.

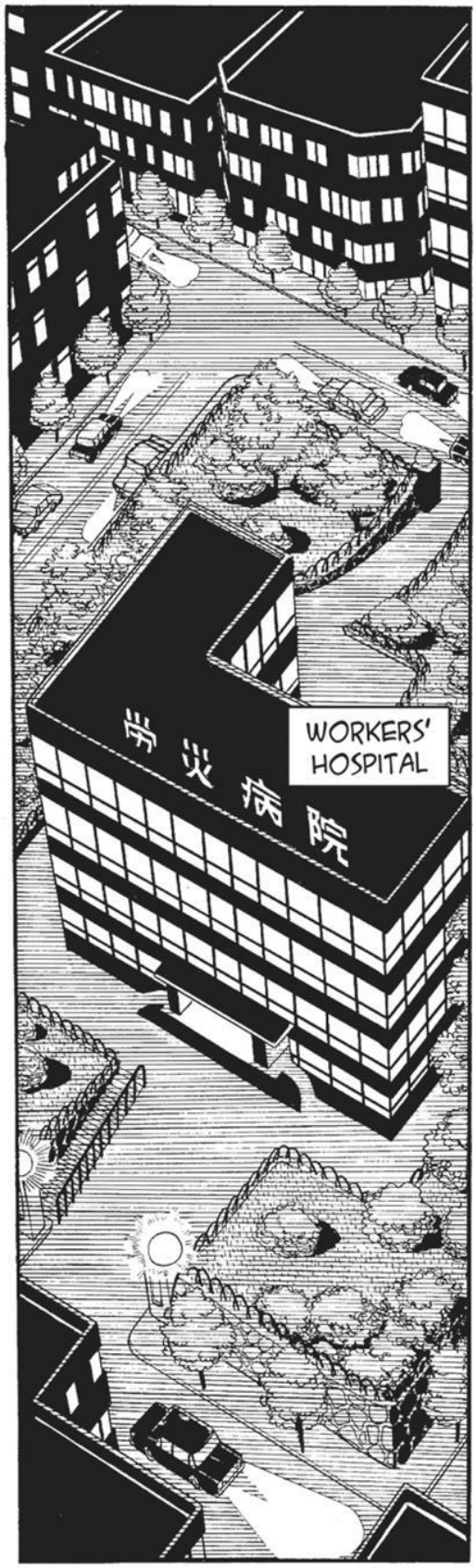

A VISIT. ROOM 303.

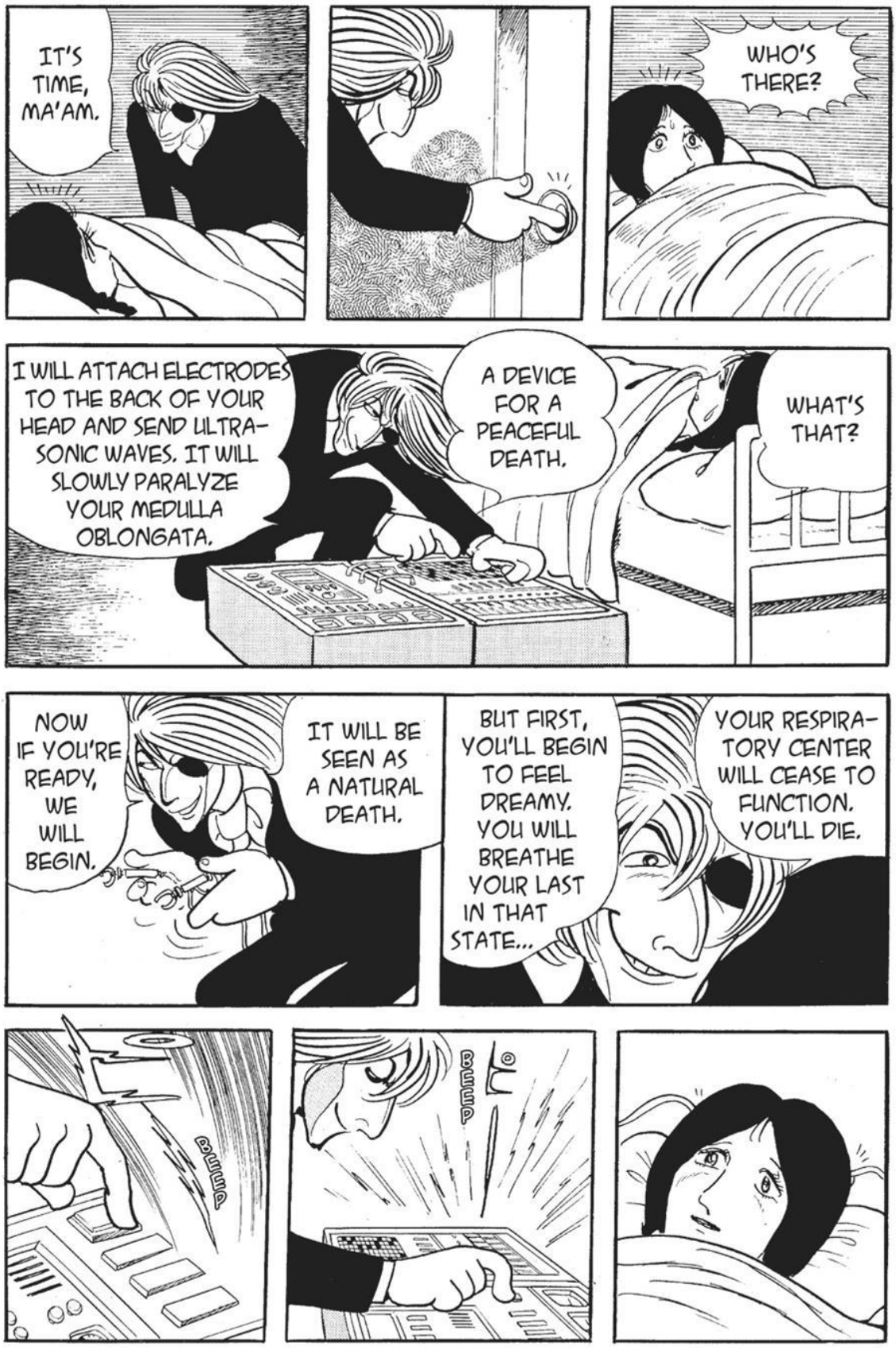
KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK

303

KCHACK
SLIDE


労災病院
WORKERS' HOSPITAL

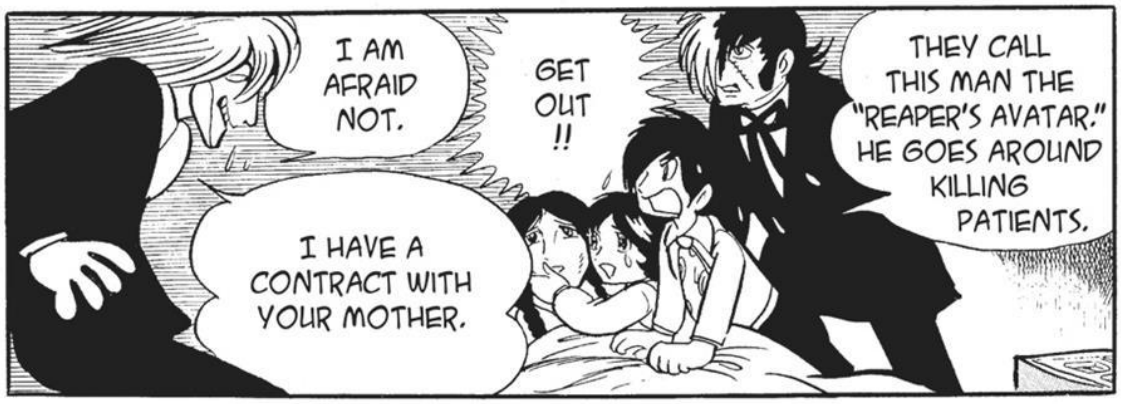

IT'S TIME, MA'AM.
WHO'S THERE?
I WILL ATTACH ELECTRODES TO THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD AND SEND ULTRA-SONIC WAVES. IT WILL SLOWLY PARALYZE YOUR MEDULLA OBLONGATA.
A DEVICE FOR A PEACEFUL DEATH.
WHAT'S THAT?
NOW IF YOU'RE READY, WE WILL BEGIN.
IT WILL BE SEEN AS A NATURAL DEATH.
BUT FIRST, YOU'LL BEGIN TO FEEL DREAMY. YOU WILL BREATHE YOUR LAST IN THAT STATE...
YOUR RESPIRA-TORY CENTER WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION. YOU'LL DIE.
BLIPP
BLIPP

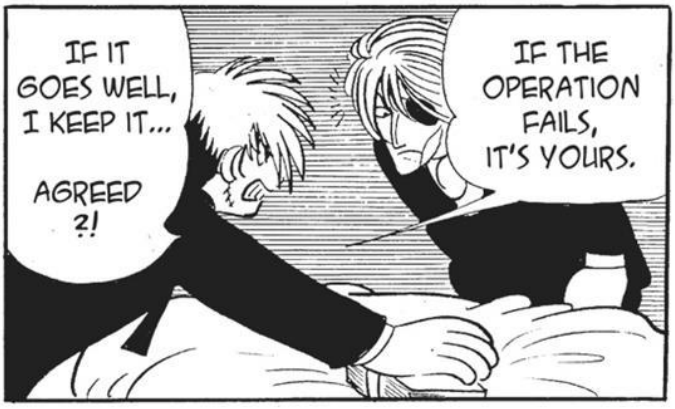
I FEEL SORT OF SPACEY, LIKE I'M DRIFTING OFF INTO A DREAM...
HOW GOES IT?
WHINNG
GOOD... SAVOR THE MOMENT.
BAM
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO SHE WAS YOUR CLIENT.
KIRIKO

MAMA, NO! DON'T DIE!

DON'T BE A FOOL!

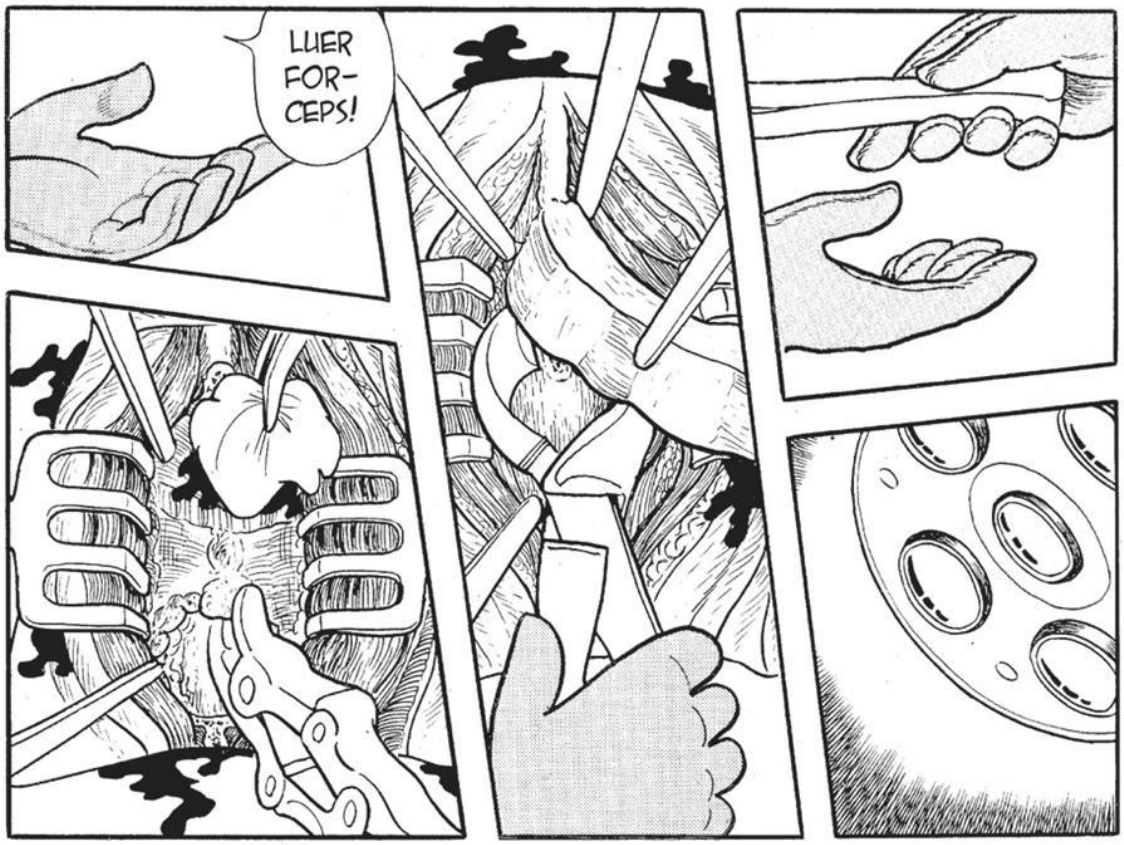
YOU DARE INTERFERE WITH MY WORK?

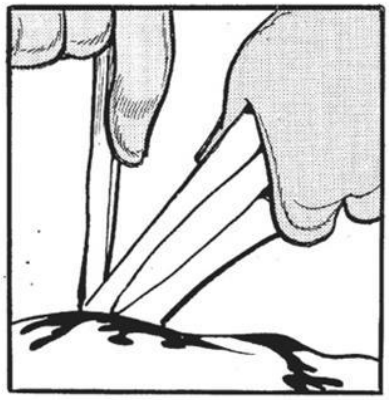

I AM AFRAID NOT.
GET OUT !!
THEY CALL THIS MAN THE "REAPER'S AVATAR." HE GOES AROUND KILLING PATIENTS.
I HAVE A CONTRACT WITH YOUR MOTHER.


IF IT GOES WELL, I KEEP IT...
AGREED ?!
IF THE OPERATION FAILS, IT'S YOURS.

HERE'S ONE MILLION YEN.

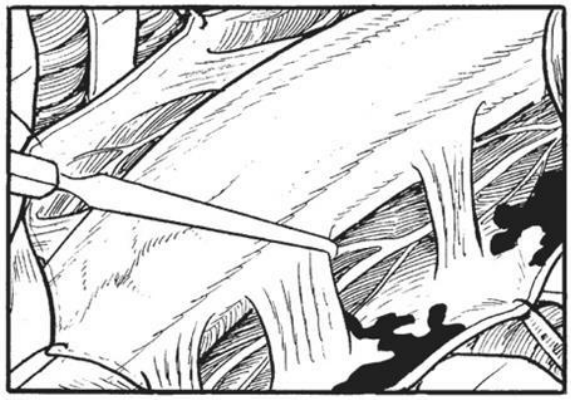
IF I SUCCEED, THANK YOUR CHILDREN. AND DROP YOUR OBSESSION WITH DEATH.
I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU BETTER.
BE CARE-FUL!
AND SEVER THE ARC OF THE 6TH CERVICAL AND 8TH DORSAL VERTEBRA.
NOT TO WORRY.
WE'LL EXAMINE THE 3RD CERVICAL VERTEBRA, REPAIR THE SPINAL CHORD AND NERVE ROOTS


LUER FOR-CEPS!

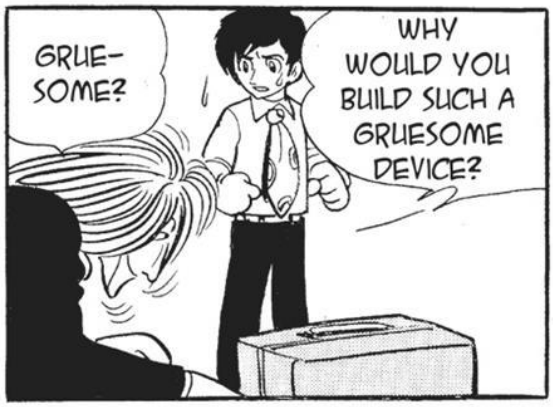


WILL YOU SHUT UP ?

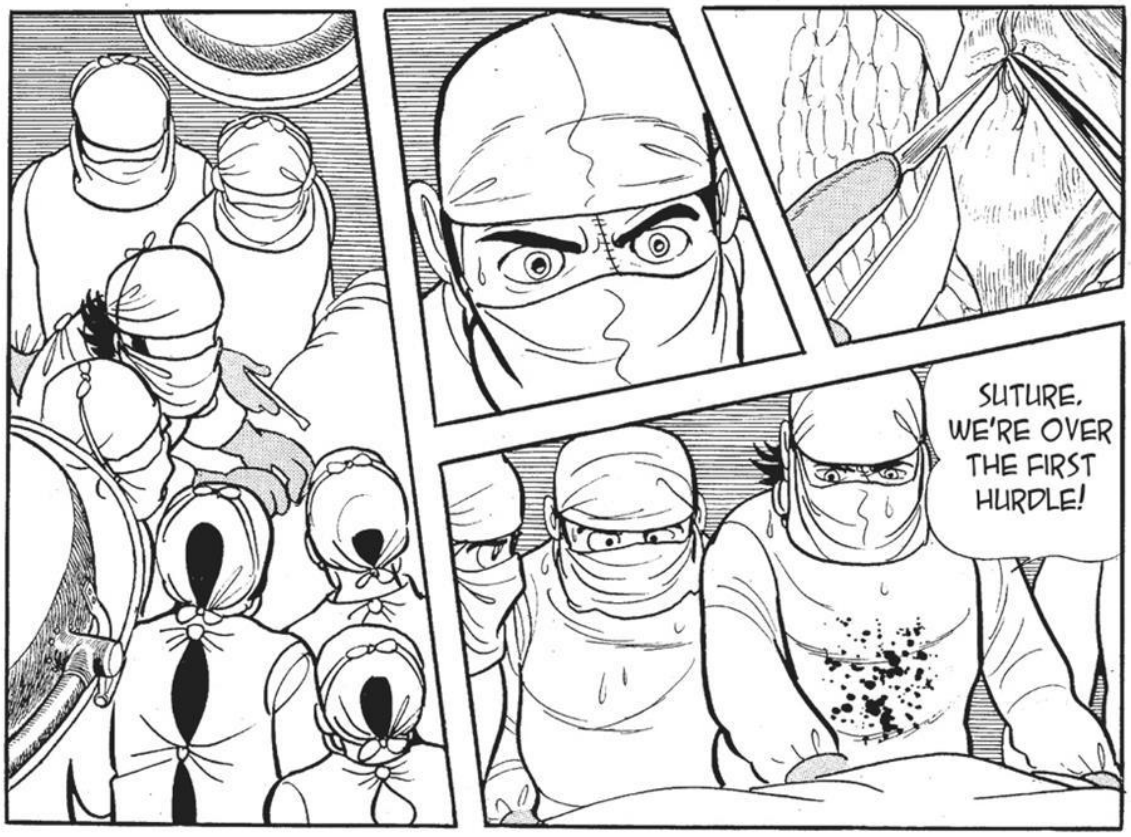
WATCH OUT NOW...!



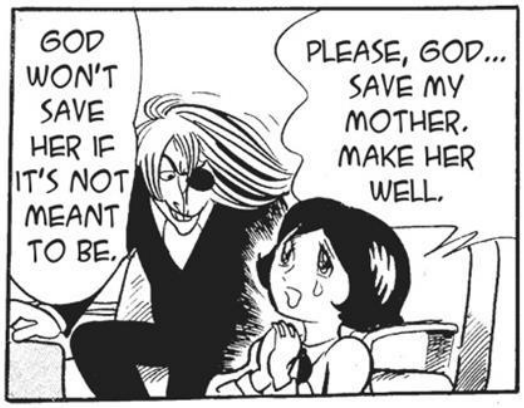
I USED TO BE A MILITARY DOCTOR. MEN WITH HALF THEIR BODIES BLOWN AWAY, YET UNABLE TO DIE— HOW MANY OF THEM I SAW.


GRUE-SOME?
WHY WOULD YOU BUILD SUCH A GRUESOME DEVICE?

EVERY LAST ONE THANKED ME! SINCE THEN...
SO HAPPY. "THANKS FOR LETTING ME GO, DOC."
HELPING THEM DIE IN PEACE MADE THEM...


SUTURE. WE'RE OVER THE FIRST HURDLE!

THEY ARE DONE ...


GOD WON'T SAVE HER IF IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE.
PLEASE, GOD... SAVE MY MOTHER. MAKE HER WELL.

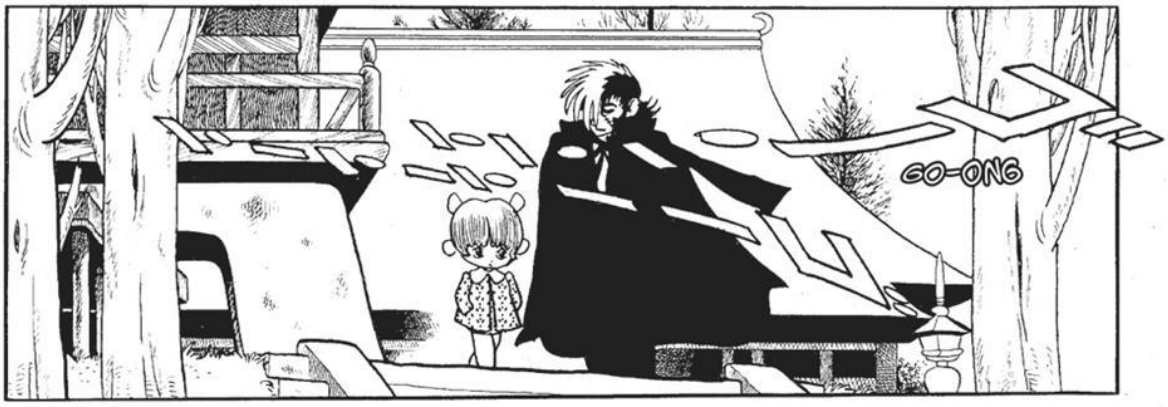
DR. BLACK JACK !!
WHEN THE CAST COMES OFF, SHE'LL NEED TO EXERCISE.

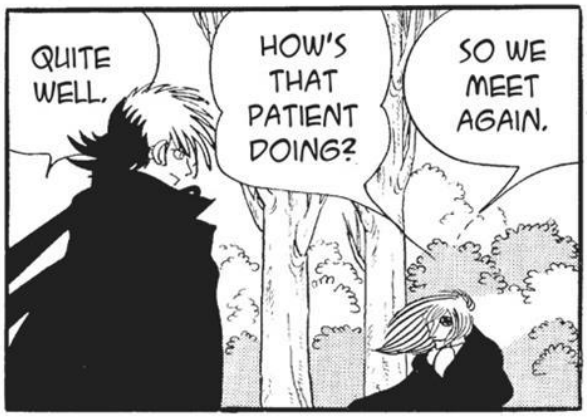
IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?
GRIN

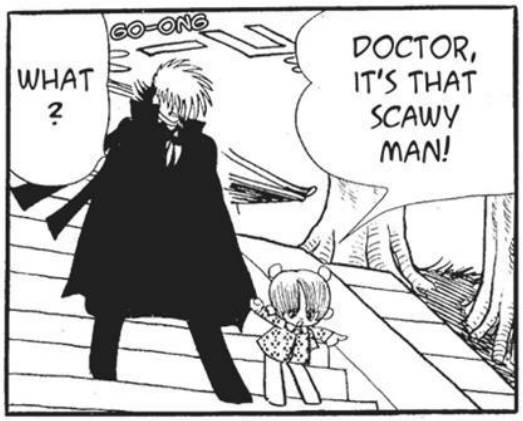
BROTHER !!
IT WORKED! HE DID IT! HOORAY!

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE, KIRIKO. HIT THE ROAD.

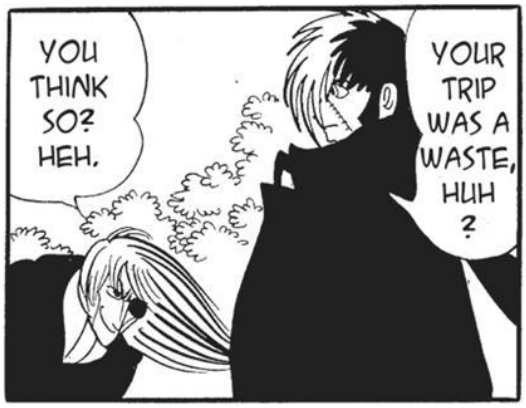
BYE NOW.
I CERTAINLY DON'T ENJOY SOB-FESTS, TRUE.

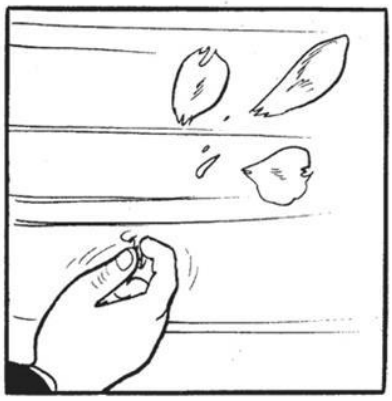

GO-ONG

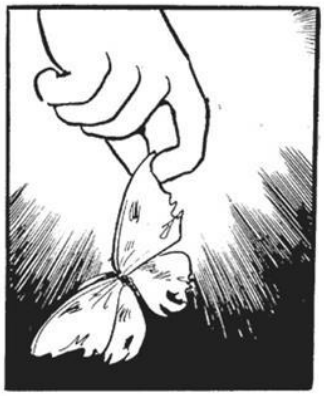

QUITE WELL.
HOW'S THAT PATIENT DOING?
SO WE MEET AGAIN.

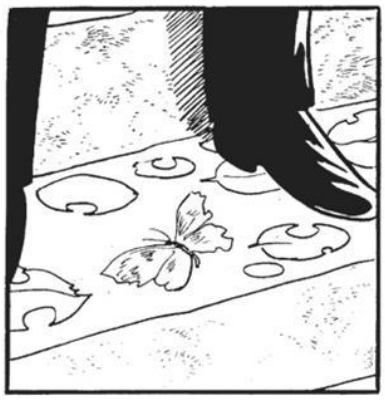

GO-ONG
WHAT ?
DOCTOR, IT'S THAT SCAWY MAN!

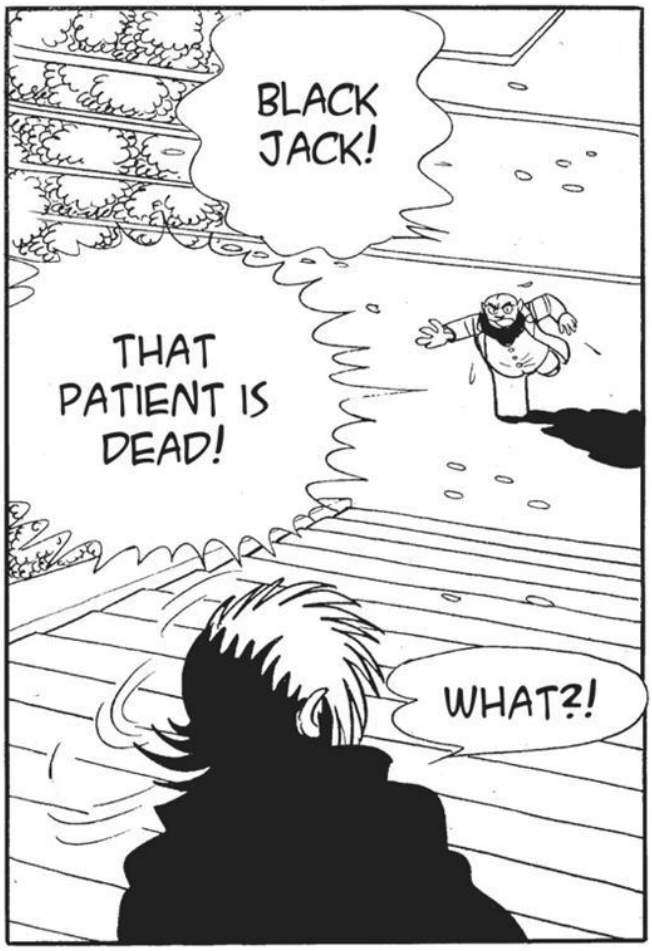
I MEAN TO HELP PEOPLE DIE. FROM NOW ON TOO.
YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES, SIR.

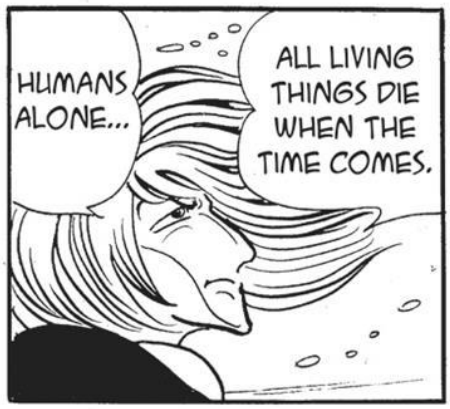

YOU THINK SO? HEH.
YOUR TRIP WAS A WASTE, HUH ?



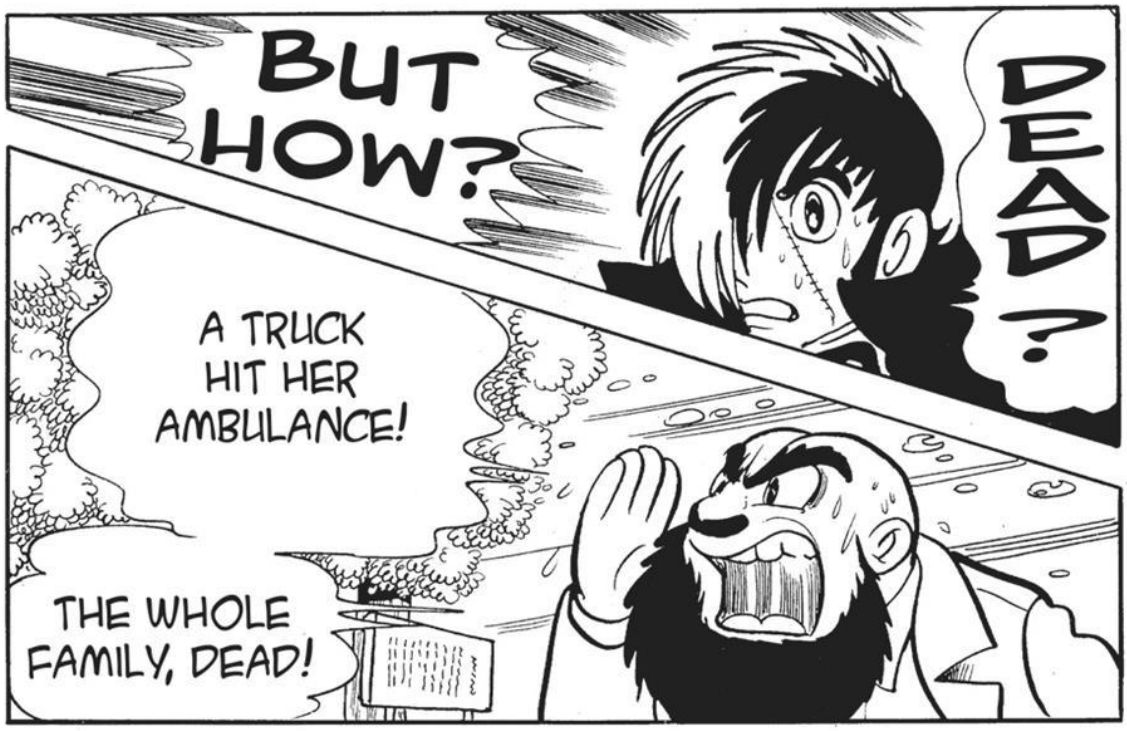





BLACK JACK!
THAT PATIENT IS DEAD!
WHAT?!


HUMANS ALONE...
ALL LIVING THINGS DIE WHEN THE TIME COMES.

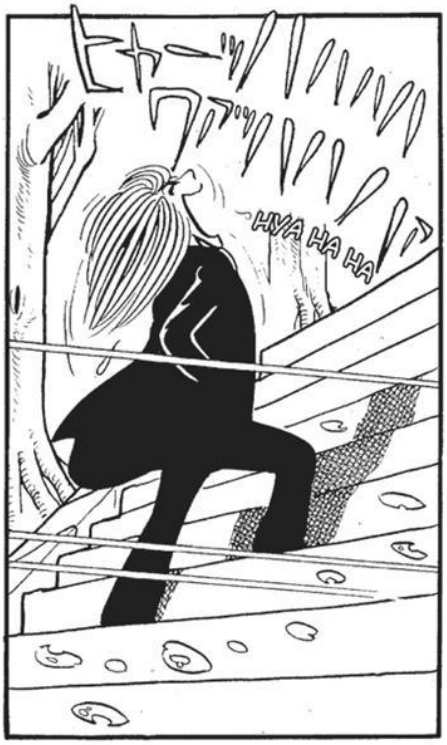
WHAT'S THE RIGHT WAY, BLACK JACK?
TRY TO CHANGE THAT.
TILL NEXT TIME!


BUT HOW?
DEAD?
A TRUCK HIT HER AMBULANCE!
THE WHOLE FAMILY, DEAD!

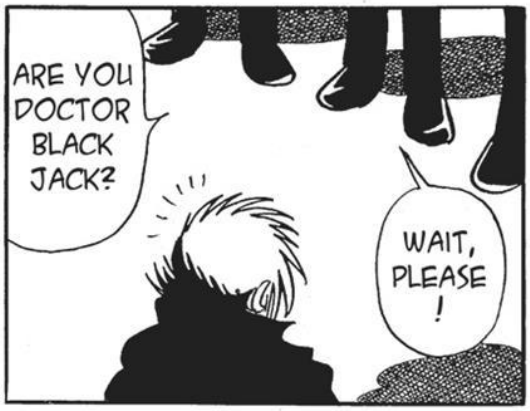
I'LL GO ON CURING THEM
FOR MY OWN SAKE!!

...

DAMN IT!!


HYA HA HA

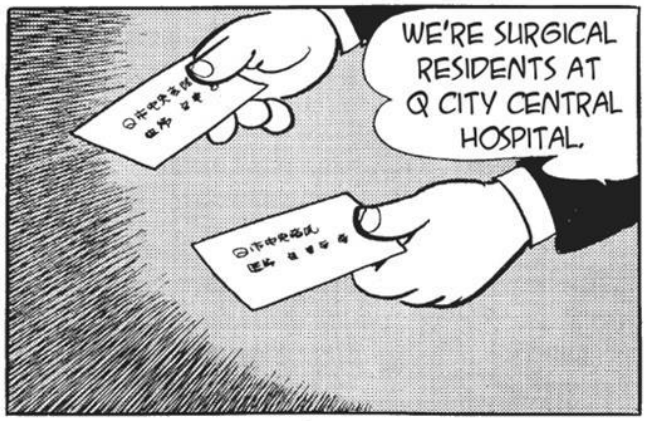
THE RESIDENTS

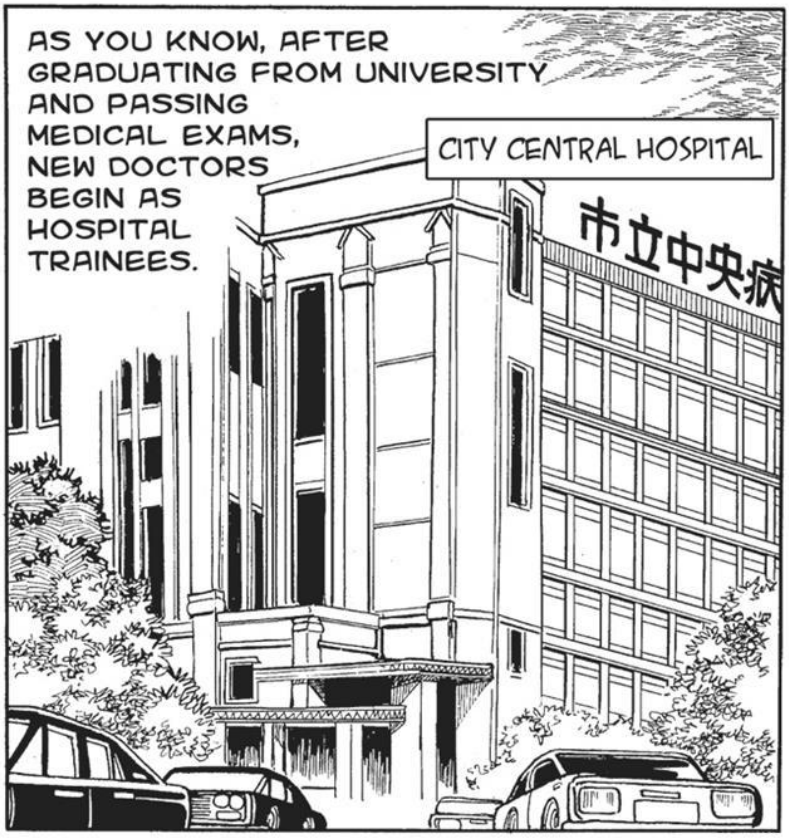

ARE YOU DOCTOR BLACK JACK?
WAIT, PLEASE!

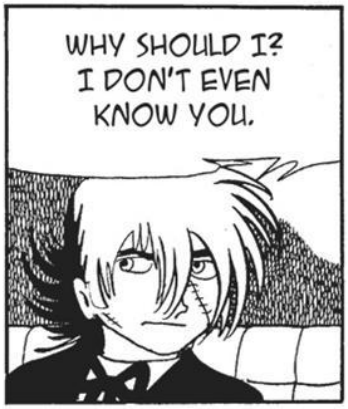
I JUST GOT BACK FROM SOUTH AMERICA.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU. COULD YOU SPARE A FEW MOMENTS?

WE WANT YOU TO ATTEND AN OPERATION WE'RE PERFORMING TOMORROW.
AND?

WE REALIZE THAT, BUT IT'S EXTREMELY URGENT.


WE'RE SURGICAL RESIDENTS AT Q CITY CENTRAL HOSPITAL.


AS YOU KNOW, AFTER GRADUATING FROM UNIVERSITY AND PASSING MEDICAL EXAMS, NEW DOCTORS BEGIN AS HOSPITAL TRAINEES.
CITY CENTRAL HOSPITAL
市立中央病

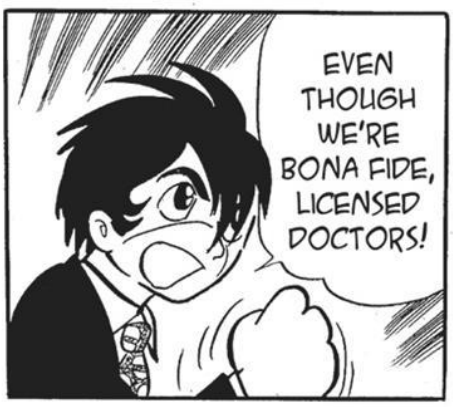

WHY SHOULD I? I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU.

LET ME EXPLAIN PLEASE!

EXTREMELY OLD-FASHIONED!
TURNS OUT, THE PLACE IS...
WE WENT TO Q CITY CENTRAL HOSPITAL.

HE WON'T LET US DO A SHRED OF REAL WORK!

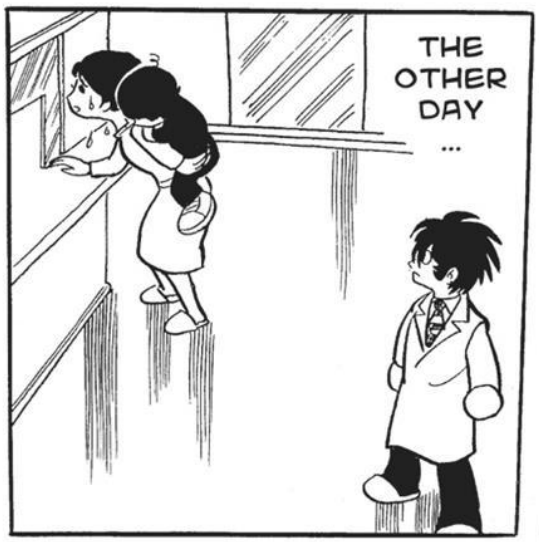
CHIEF SURGEON DR. YAMAURA RULES WITH AN IRON FIST!

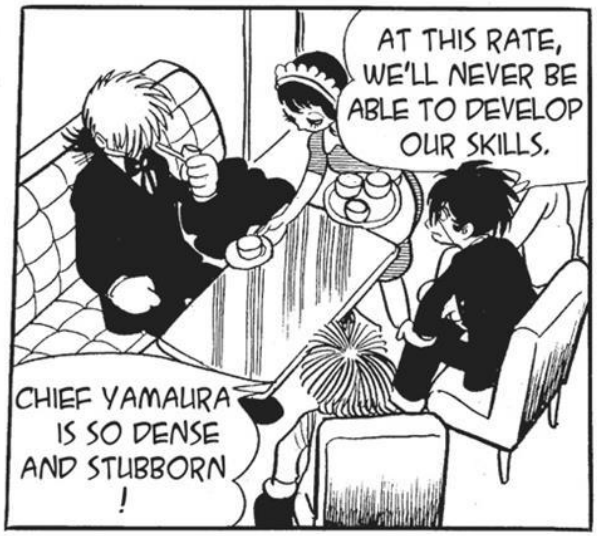

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BONA FIDE, LICENSED DOCTORS!

HE TASKS US WITH THINGS EVEN A NURSE COULD DO!

GIRAH

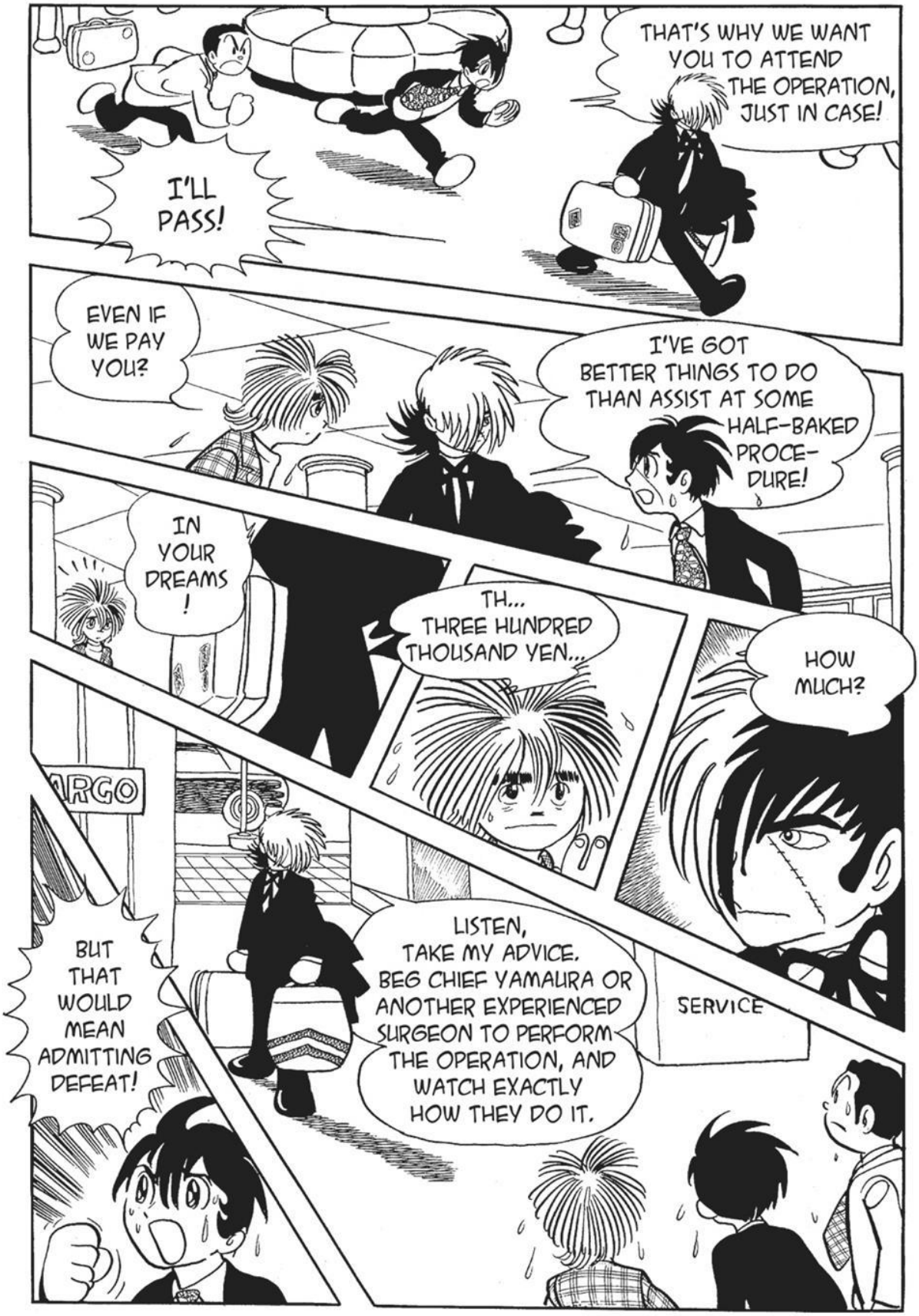
GO ON.
YOU DON'T HAVE A LICENSE, DO YOU, DOCTOR.
OOPS...
UM...

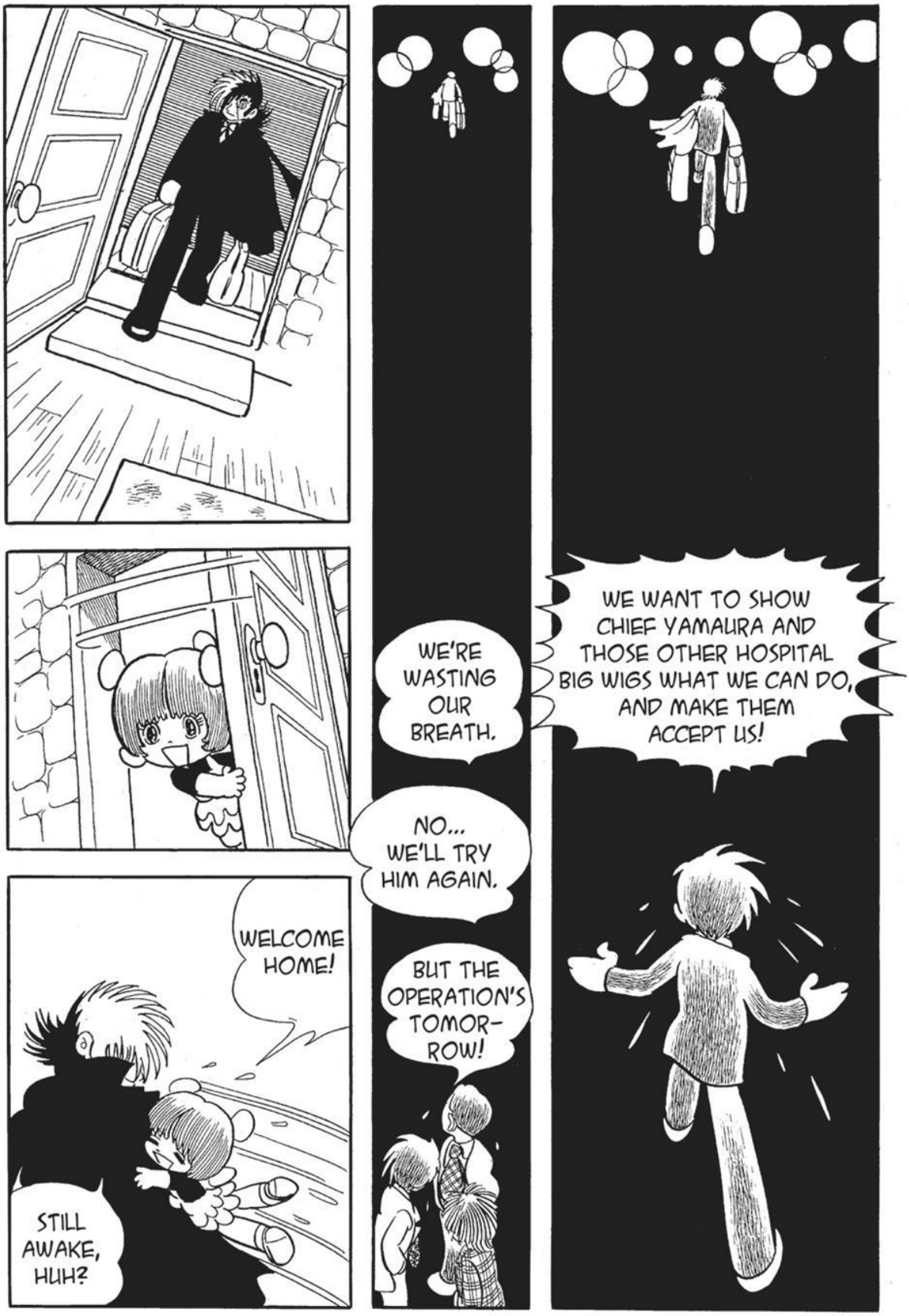

THE OTHER DAY ...

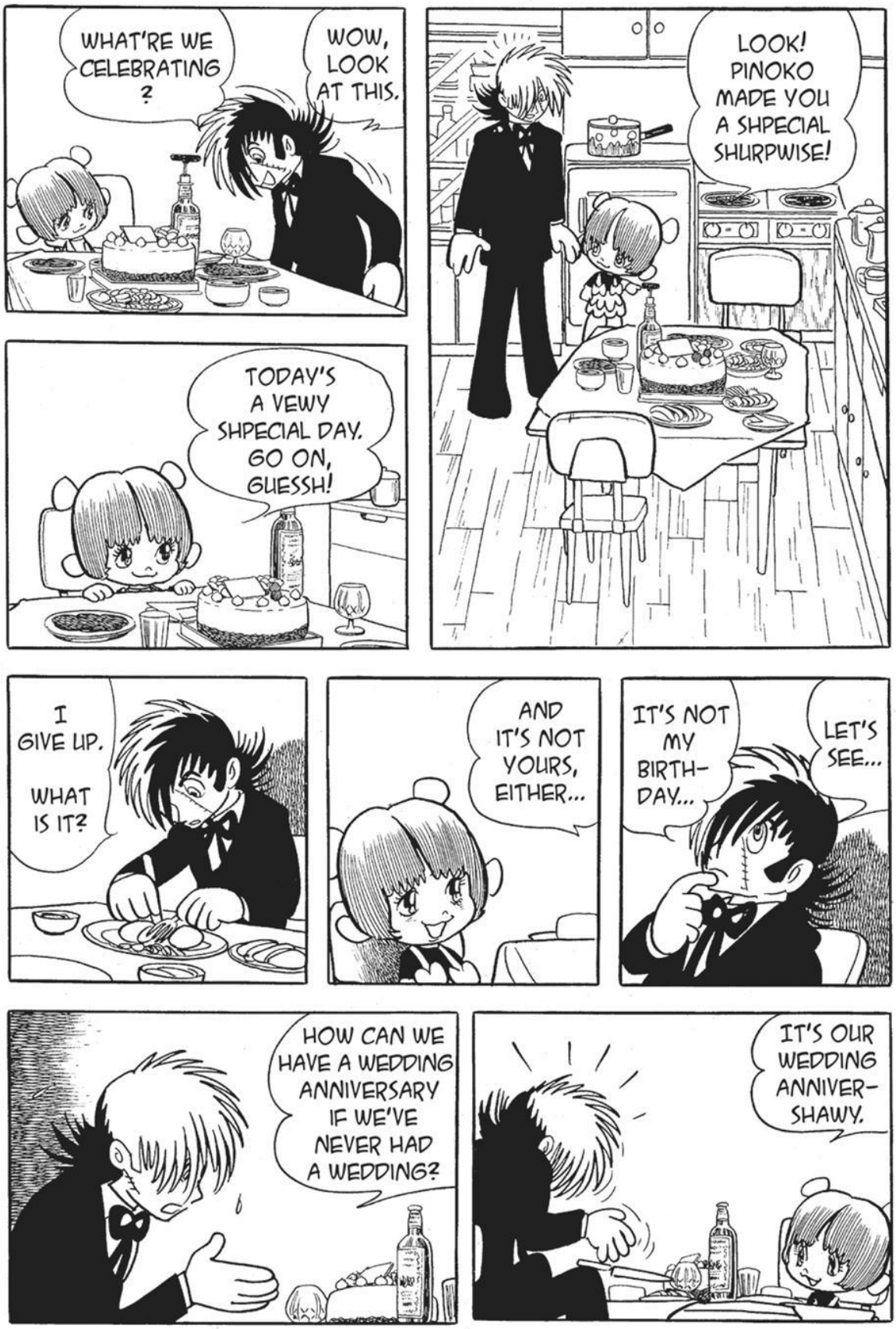

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEVELOP OUR SKILLS.
CHIEF YAMAURA IS SO DENSE AND STUBBORN !

I SECRETLY EXAMINED THE BOY. I GAVE HIM MEDICINE, AN INJECTION.
AN EMERGENCY PATIENT CAME IN WELL AFTER HOURS. RECEPTION WAS CLOSED.
HE EVEN WASHED HIS HANDS OFF HIM, INSISTING THAT WE TAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY!
CHIEF YAMAURA WAS FURIOUS.
WE'LL GET NO HELP.
WE HAVE TO PERFORM THE PATIENT'S SURGERY OURSELVES!
THAT WAS WHEN OUR CONFLICT CAME TO A HEAD.

AND YOU'RE CONFIDENT WHEN IT COMES TO SURGERY?
HYDRO-NEPHROSIS. AND IT'S VERY ADVANCED.
WHAT'S THE DIAGNO-SIS?
HA! AND YET YOU'RE GOING AHEAD WITH IT?
WE'VE OBSERVED THE CHIEF, BUT ...
THE APPENDIX IS ONE THING, BUT THE KIDNEY ...
SO LONG !
W... WAIT !
AMATEURS LIKE YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS TINKERING AROUND WITH PATI-ENTS.
I'M SURE WE CAN DO IT IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER!
HE'S A WHIZ, HE'S GOT THE TECHNIQUE!
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! YOU'RE NOT DISSECTING FROGS ANYMORE !


THAT'S WHY WE WANT YOU TO ATTEND THE OPERATION, JUST IN CASE!
I'LL PASS!
EVEN IF WE PAY YOU?
I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN ASSIST AT SOME HALF-BAKED PROCE-DURE!
IN YOUR DREAMS!
TH... THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN...
HOW MUCH?
ARGO
LISTEN, TAKE MY ADVICE. BEG CHIEF YAMAURA OR ANOTHER EXPERIENCED SURGEON TO PERFORM THE OPERATION, AND WATCH EXACTLY HOW THEY DO IT.
SERVICE
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN ADMITTING DEFEAT!


WELCOME HOME!
STILL AWAKE, HUH?
WE'RE WASTING OUR BREATH.
NO... WE'LL TRY HIM AGAIN.
BUT THE OPERATION'S TOMOR-ROW!
WE WANT TO SHOW CHIEF YAMAURA AND THOSE OTHER HOSPITAL BIG WIGS WHAT WE CAN DO, AND MAKE THEM ACCEPT US!


WHAT'RE WE CELEBRATING ?
WOW, LOOK AT THIS.
LOOK! PINOKO MADE YOU A SHPECIAL SHURPWISE!
TODAY'S A VEWY SHPECIAL DAY. GO ON, GUESSH!
I GIVE UP. WHAT IS IT?
AND IT'S NOT YOURS, EITHER...
IT'S NOT MY BIRTH-DAY...
LET'S SEE...
HOW CAN WE HAVE A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IF WE'VE NEVER HAD A WEDDING?
IT'S OUR WEDDING ANNIVER-SHAWY.

HAND WHAT OVER ?
NOW HAND IT OVER.

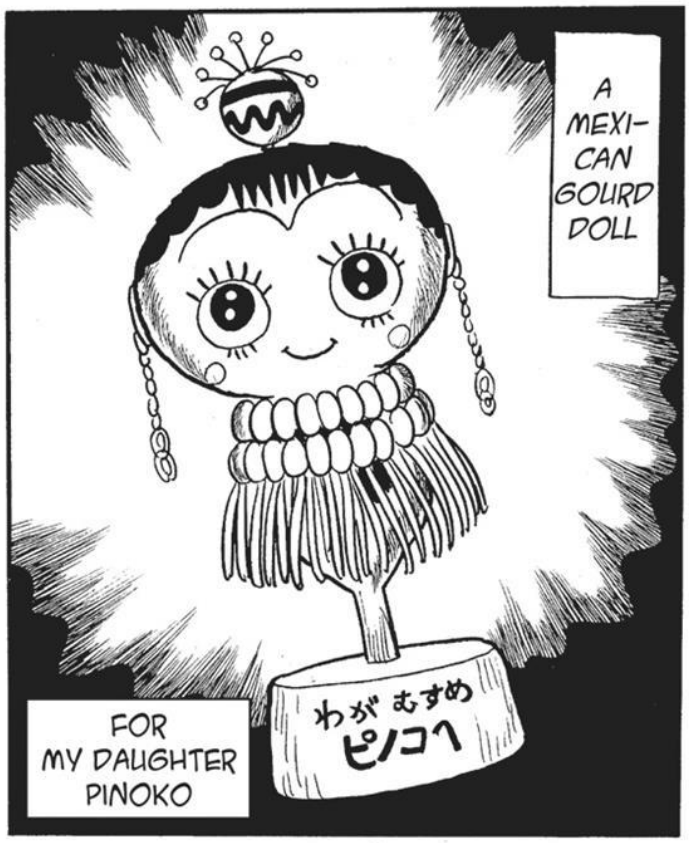
WELL, I GUESS YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND...

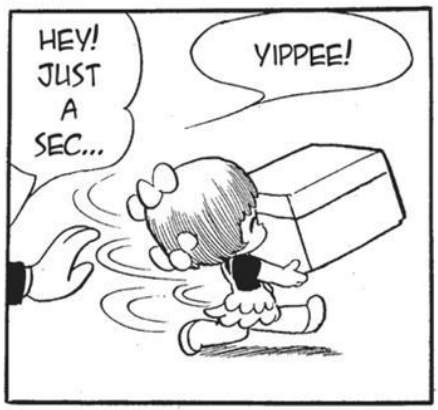
I'M YOUR WIFE. OF COURSE WE HAVE A WEDDING ANNIVERSHAWY.

O-OKAY. RIGHT NOW ...
GIVE IT TO ME. I KNOW IT'S IN THERE!

OH, THAT. WELL ...

FWOM YOUR TWIP!
MY PWESENT !


A MEXI-CAN GOURD DOLL
わが むすめ
ピノコへ
FOR MY DAUGHTER PINOKO


HEY! JUST A SEC...
YIPPEE!

OOH! IT'S SHO PWETTY!

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
YOU WOTE THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DAUGHTER! I'M NOT YOUR KID!
I-I... I WASN'T THINKING.
FOR MY DAUGHTER PINOKO
DAUGH-TER?
DAUGHTER ?!
WHAT DO I CARE !
SLAM
GUESS I SCREWED THAT UP...
GO AWAY!
C'MON, PINOKO. PUT IT ON YOUR SHELF OR SOME-THING.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT...
...
DOC-TOR?
バタム BAM
WHERE ARE YOU ...
HEY !
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DOCTOR!!
ガチャリ KCHAK

DAMN IT! WHAT A CHUMP I AM... I CAN'T SLEEP, WORRYING ABOUT THAT HOSPITAL.
BRRRRRMM
ブロロロ
Q CITY
Q市
CENTRAL HOSPITAL, ALL DEPARTMENTS (CLOSED SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS)
中央病院
全科・日・祭日休診

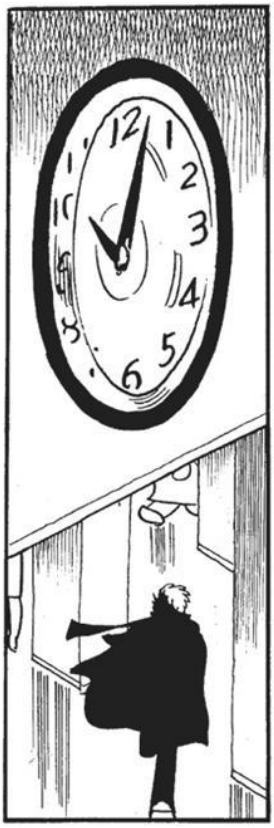
TOO BIG FOR THEIR BRITCHES, I SAY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THEY'LL BE OPERATING THIS MORNING.
SPOILED KIDS. INEXPERIENCED AND IGNORANT, TOO!
WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT'S ON THEIR HEADS.
THESE DAYS, THEY GET THEIR LICENSES RIGHT OUT OF MED SCHOOL.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THERE WEREN'T MANY DOCTORS, AND IT WASN'T EASY TO BECOME ONE. YOU HAD TO SWEAT BLOOD APPRENTICING FOR DECADES, LEARNING MEDICINE THROUGH HONEST TOIL!
OTHER HOSPITALS CAN DO AS THEY WISH...
NOWADAYS, THEY GO INTO MEDICINE LIKE IT'S NOTHING. A WAY TO EARN A PAYCHECK!
IN MY DAY, CURING PATIENTS WAS ALL THAT MATTERED TO US.

BUT THE ONES WHO CAN'T TAKE IT RESENT ME FOR IT.
YOU SEE WHERE IT'S GOTTEN ME NOW.

HERE, I RUN A STRICT PROGRAM. I PUT THEM THROUGH THE PACES! I BELIEVE THAT'S THE ROAD TO BECOMING A GOOD DOCTOR...

THEY CAME TO YOU FOR HELP, DID THEY?
DON'T DO IT. YOU'LL JUST SPOIL THEM.

DOCTOR BLACK JACK! I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.



WE'RE SAVED!
BANZAI!
HEY, EVERYONE, THE DOCTOR CAME!

YOU'D BETTER NOT EXPECT ME TO LEND A HAND FOR A MEASLY 300,000 YEN!
HEY, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA ...
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, WHY NOT HELP US?
I WAS WORRIED.
I JUST STOPPED BY BECAUSE ...
IF YOU WANT TO SEE A REAL OPERATION, YOU'LL HAVE TO FORK OVER 30 MILLION YEN!
YOUR PIDDLING OFFER IS TWO ZEROS SHORT!
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
YOU COWARDS!
WE'D OPEN OUR OWN PRACTICE WITH THE MONEY!
FORGET IT!
FINE, THEN! JUST WATCH.
BLACK MARKET RATES.
CARE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIVES PAYING IT OFF?

WE... WILL OPERATE TO REMOVE THE LEFT KIDNEY.
PATIENT IS A BOY, AGE 11. ABDOMINAL PAIN, BLOODY URINE, MILD HYPERTENSION. PALPATION REVEALED A SOFT, SPRINGY SWELLING.

DID YOU RUN A DD?
EH-X-RAYS OF RENAL PELVIS SHOW A MASS-LIKE SHADOW. SCINTIGRAM WAS ABNORMAL, ULTRASOUND EXAM ALSO EXHIBITS STRONG REACTION. IT APPEARS TO BE A CLEAR CASE OF ADVANCED HYDRONEPHROSIS.

HUH ?

ALL RIGHT THEN, GO AHEAD.

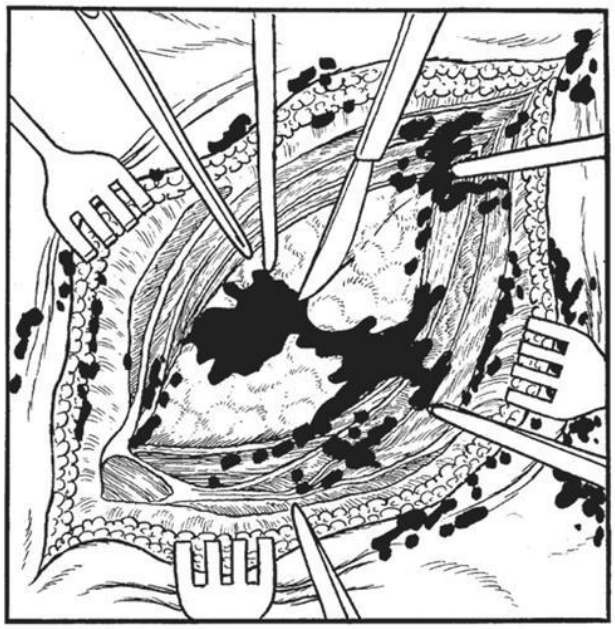
Y... YES. JUST TO BE SURE.

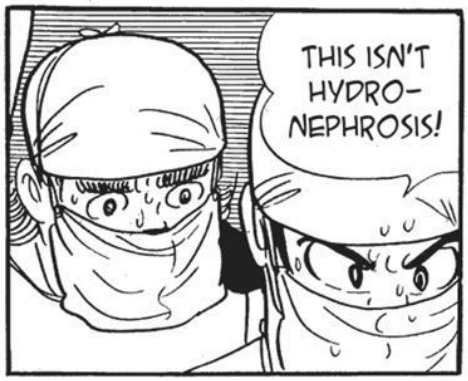
SCALPEL !

GO ON, GET STARTED.
DON'T FREEZE UP NOW!

HMPH. NOT BAD.

THE KIDNEY ...




THIS ISN'T HYDRO-NEPHROSIS!

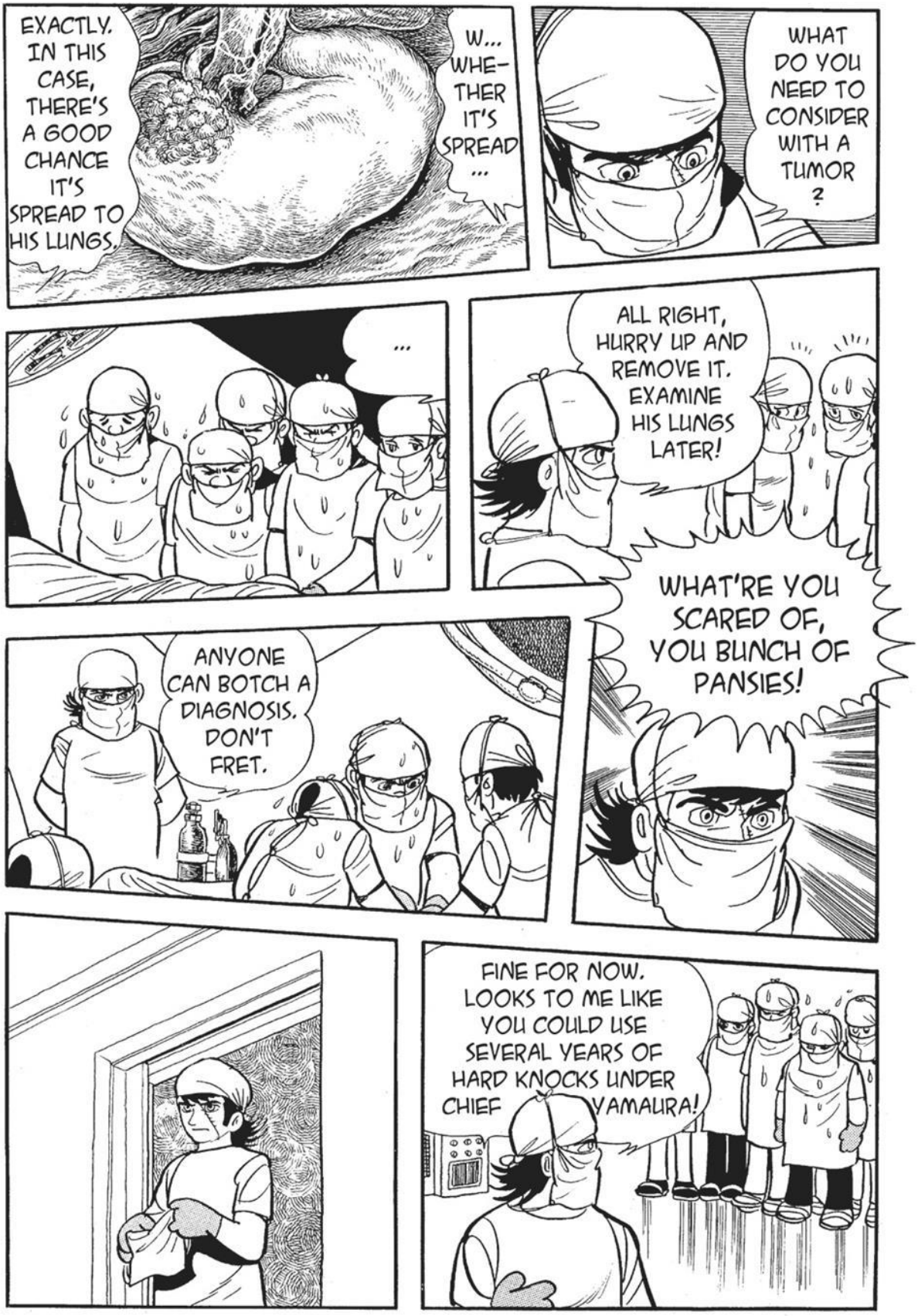
WAIT ...

LIGA-TURE!

THAT'S RIGHT! A FULL-BLOWN TUMOR!
A W-WILMS' TUMOR...?
LOOKS LIKE YOUR DIAGNOSIS WAS OFF THE MARK.

IT'S A WILMS' TUMOR.

IS IT A TUMOR?
WHAT IS THIS THING?


EXACTLY. IN THIS CASE, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE IT'S SPREAD TO HIS LUNGS.
W... WHE-THER IT'S SPREAD ...
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WITH A TUMOR ?
...
ALL RIGHT, HURRY UP AND REMOVE IT. EXAMINE HIS LUNGS LATER!
WHAT'RE YOU SCARED OF, YOU BUNCH OF PANSIES!
ANYONE CAN BOTCH A DIAGNOSIS. DON'T FRET.
FINE FOR NOW. LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU COULD USE SEVERAL YEARS OF HARD KNOCKS UNDER CHIEF YAMAURA!

CHIEF YAMA-URA!

?

I WANTED TO BE HERE JUST IN CASE I NEEDED TO STEP IN AND FINISH THE OPERATION.
BUT WHY ...

YOU WERE IN THERE THE ENTIRE TIME?
I HAD NO IDEA.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, DOCTOR.

YOU CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO THE PATIENT.

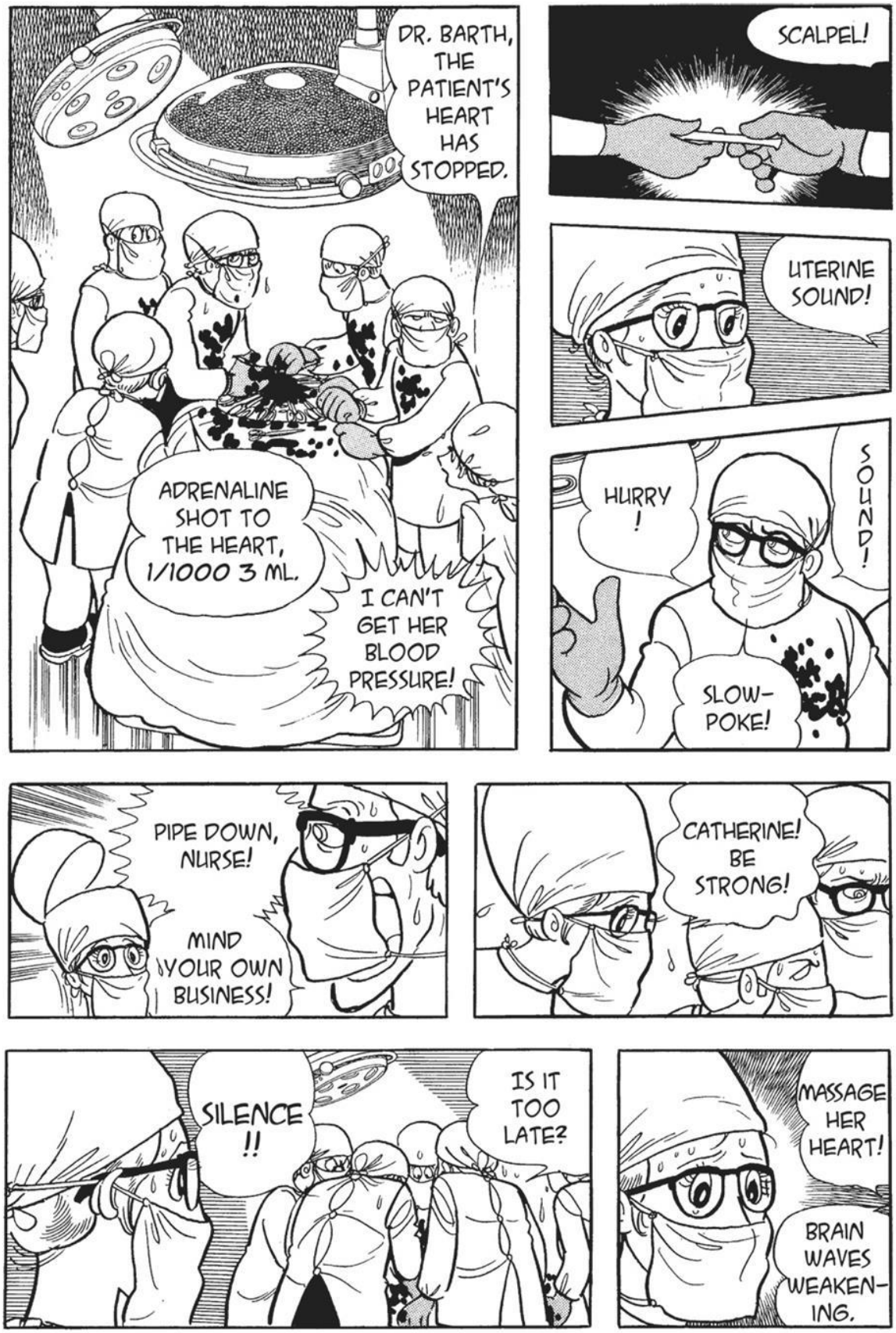
医長室
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME, TOO?

I SUSPECT ...

LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS UP ALL NIGHT.
PHEW ...
HA HA ...

RECOLLECTIONS OF A SPINSTER

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT A HUMAN IS LIKE A SPECK OF DUST IN THE VAST UNIVERSE...
AND YET, WE ARE BORN INTO HISTORY, FATED EVENTUALLY TO DIE...
PÉAN FORCEPS !
BACK WHEN I WAS A NURSE AT A CERTAIN HOSPITAL.
IT'S BEEN FIFTY YEARS SINCE THAT DAY...
IF YOU CAN SAVE A PERSON'S LIFE, PERHAPS YOU CAN CHANGE HISTORY. THAT IS THE ROLE OF DOCTORS AND NURSES.

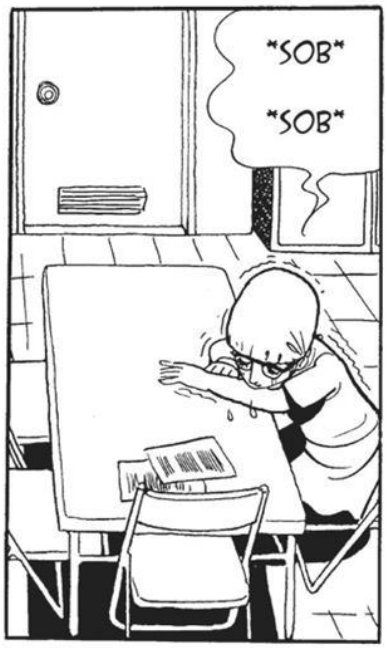

DR. BARTH, THE PATIENT'S HEART HAS STOPPED.
ADRENALINE SHOT TO THE HEART, 1/1000 3 ML.
I CAN'T GET HER BLOOD PRESSURE!
SCALPEL!
UTERINE SOUND!
HURRY !
SOUND!
SLOW-POKE!
PIPE DOWN, NURSE!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
CATHERINE! BE STRONG!
SILENCE !!
IS IT TOO LATE?
MASSAGE HER HEART!
BRAIN WAVES WEAKEN-ING.

HA-HA HA-HA-HA!

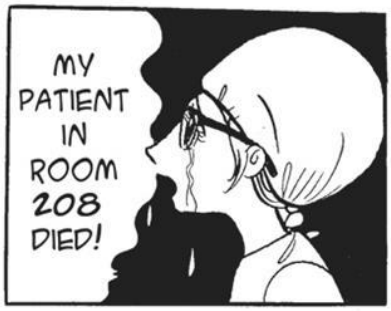
YOU'RE GOING GOLFING, DOCTOR?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'LL BE BACK MONDAY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE HEART TO GOLF, DOCTOR!

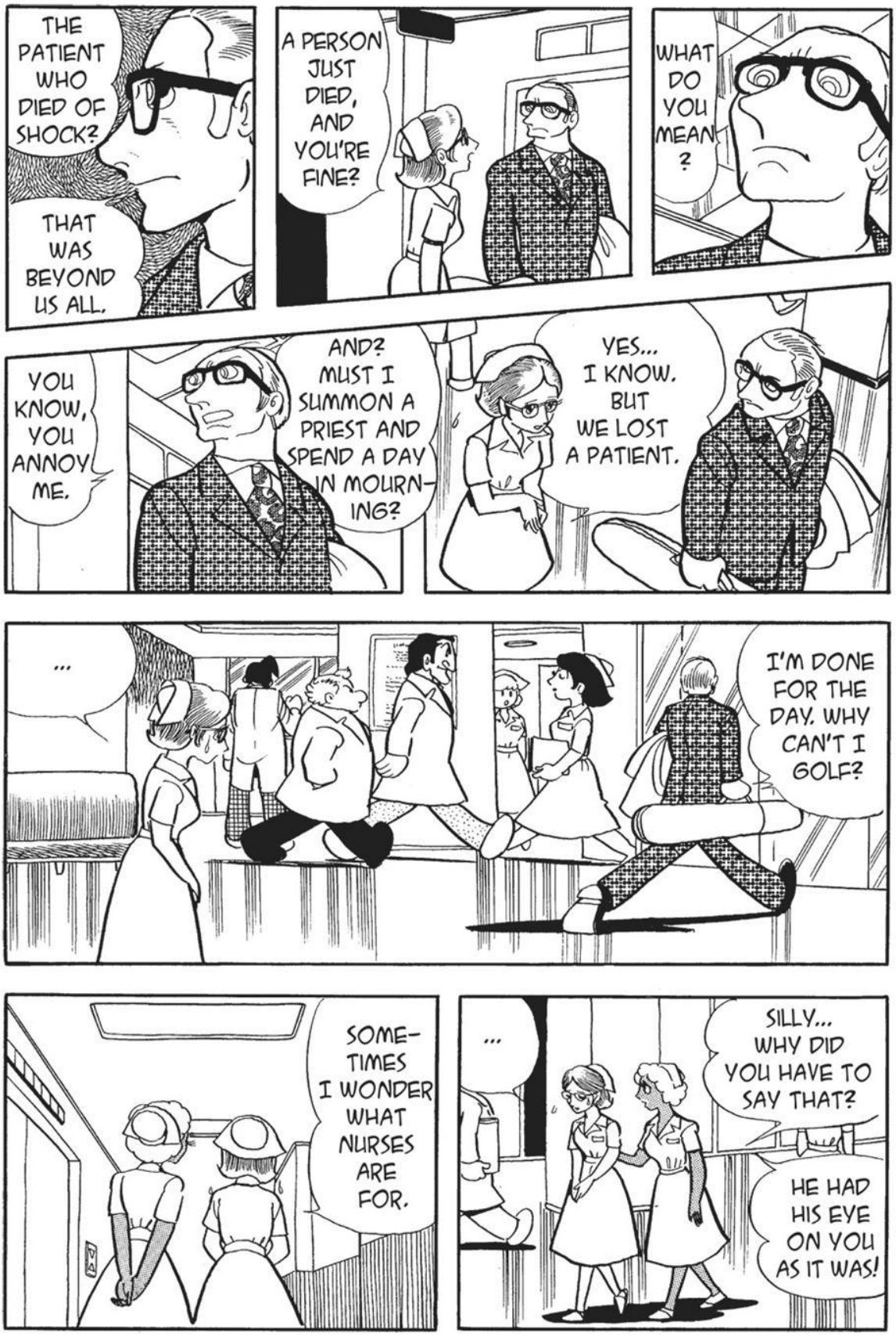
BUT CATHERINE— MY PATIENT— WAS A DEAR FRIEND... WE WERE VERY CLOSE.
I PRAYED FOR HER RECOVERY ...
BUT DURING HER SURGERY... IT HAPPENED SO FAST...
IF A NURSE CRIES FOR EVERY PATIENT SHE LOSES, THERE'D BE NO END TO IT. LET IT GO!

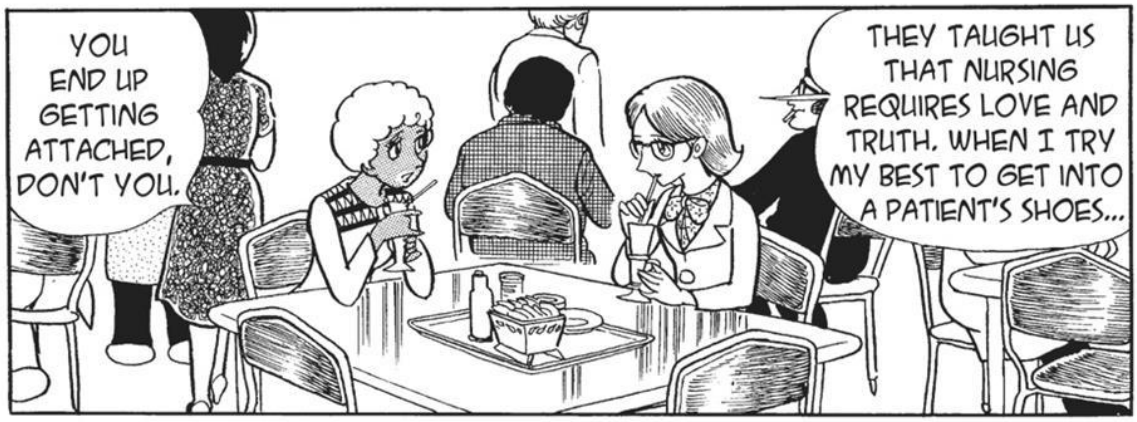

"SOB"
"SOB"

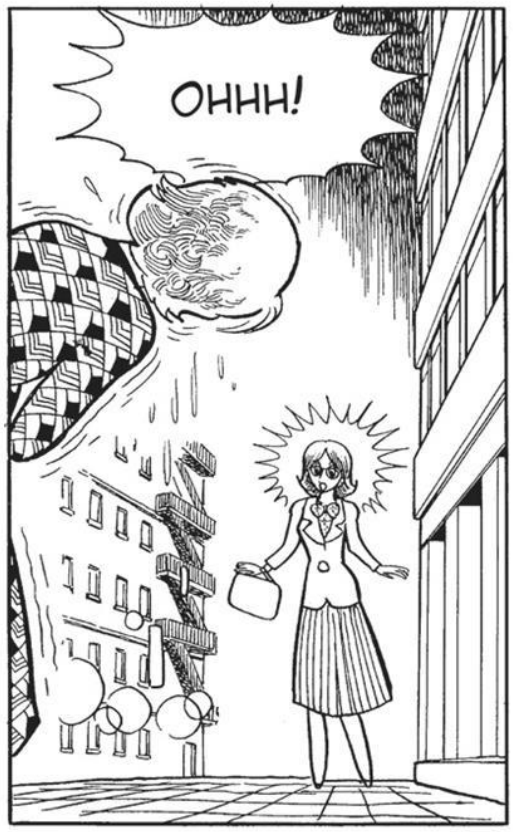
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MARY?

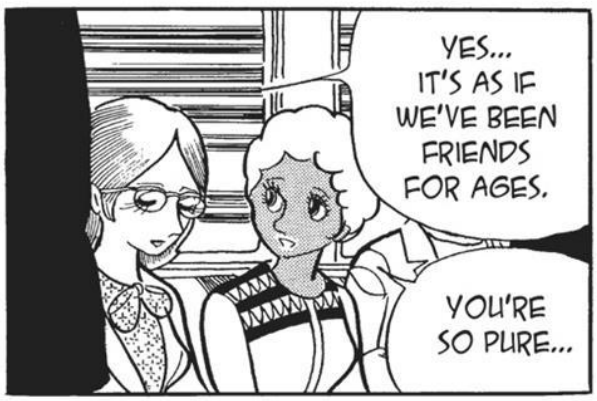

MY PATIENT IN ROOM 208 DIED!

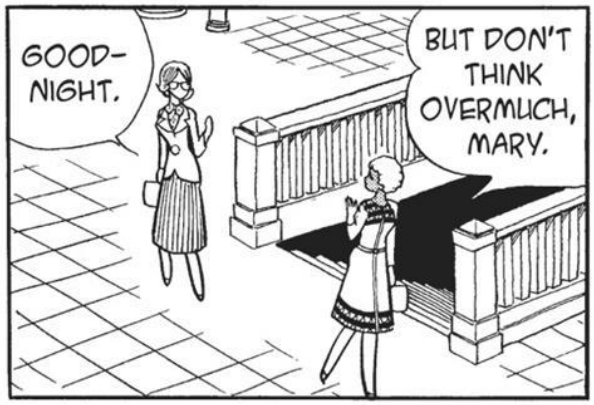
IS THAT IT? DON'T GET WORKED UP ABOUT IT! IT WAS HER TIME!


THE PATIENT WHO DIED OF SHOCK?
THAT WAS BEYOND US ALL.
A PERSON JUST DIED, AND YOU'RE FINE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW, YOU ANNOY ME.
AND? MUST I SUMMON A PRIEST AND SPEND A DAY IN MOURNING?
YES... I KNOW. BUT WE LOST A PATIENT.
...
I'M DONE FOR THE DAY. WHY CAN'T I GOLF?
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT NURSES ARE FOR.
...
SILLY... WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT?
HE HAD HIS EYE ON YOU AS IT WAS!


YOU END UP GETTING ATTACHED, DON'T YOU.
THEY TAUGHT US THAT NURSING REQUIRES LOVE AND TRUTH. WHEN I TRY MY BEST TO GET INTO A PATIENT'S SHOES...


OHHH!


YES... IT'S AS IF WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR AGES.
YOU'RE SO PURE...

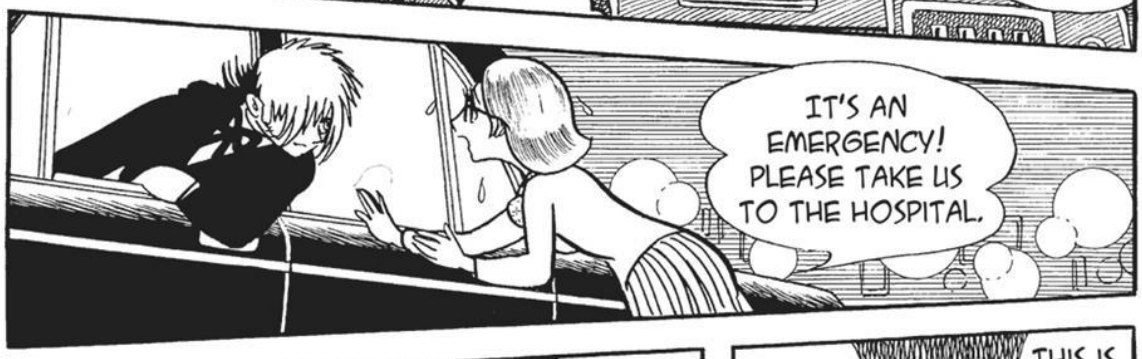

GOOD-NIGHT.
BUT DON'T THINK OVERMUCH, MARY.

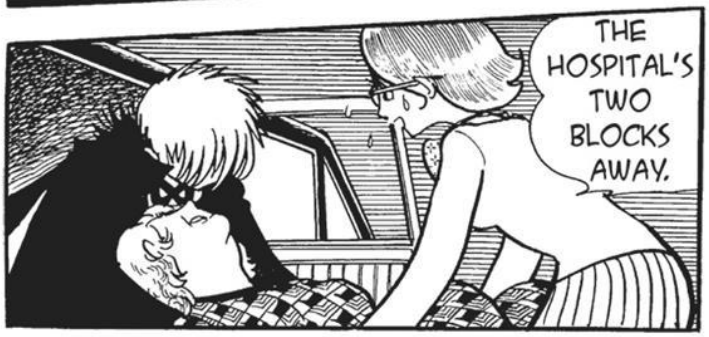
WHAT'S WRONG, MA'AM?!
IT HURTS...
M-MY BABY...

A PHONE... I NEED A PHONE!
IT LOOKS LIKE A CASE OF ABNORMAL LABOR!
HER FACE IS WHITE AS A SHEET AND HER PULSE IS WEAK...

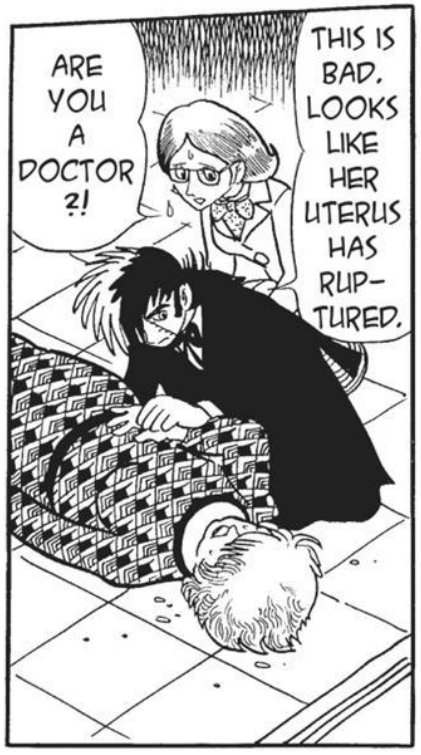
SHE'S PREGNANT ...

STOP! PLEASE!


IT'S AN EMERGENCY! PLEASE TAKE US TO THE HOSPITAL.

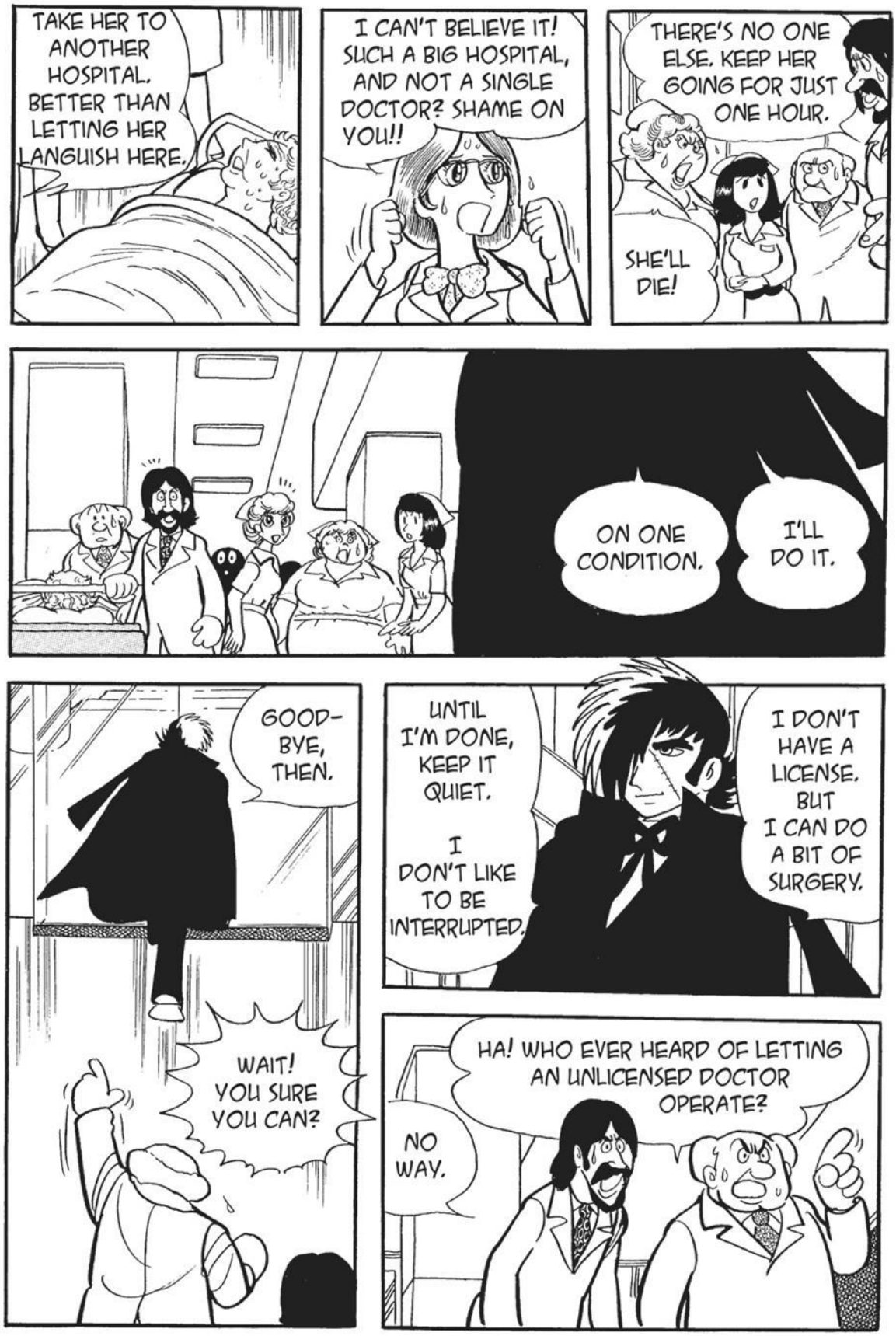

THE HOSPITAL'S TWO BLOCKS AWAY.

THAT WE CHANCED UPON A DOCTOR ...
THANK HEAVENS ...

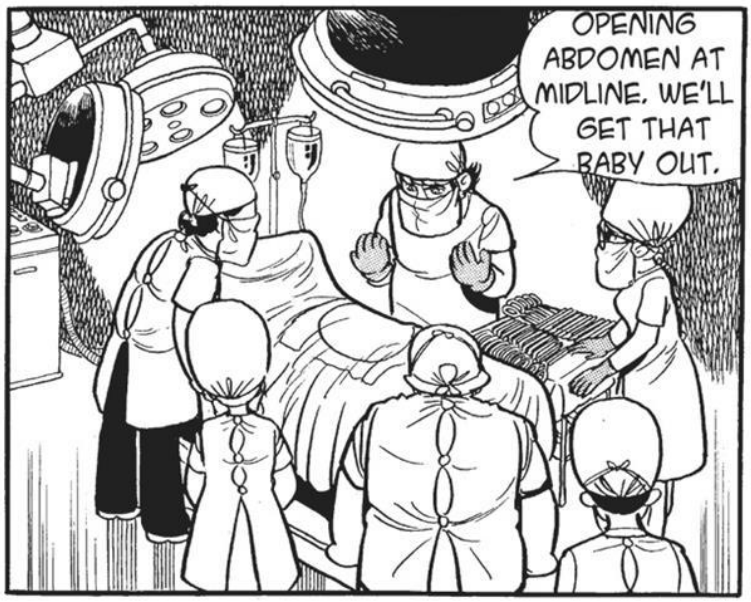

ARE YOU A DOCTOR ?!
THIS IS BAD. LOOKS LIKE HER UTERUS HAS RUP-TURED.

I'LL BE GOING NOW.
WE HAVE A PROBLEM! THE ONLY QUALIFIED DOCTOR IS DR. KENT, BUT HE'S CURRENTLY IN SURGERY.
PLEASE, DOCTOR! WON'T YOU STAY AND ATTEND?
DR. STEIN JUST LEFT FOR A MEETING, AND DR. BARTH IS OUT PLAYING GOLF.
TAKE HER STRAIGHT TO THE O.R.
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
NOBODY'S AROUND ON A SATURDAY NIGHT...
WHAT ?!
THIS ISN'T MY AFFAIR. THE DOCTORS HERE CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

SPLAT SPLAT
GUNSHOT VICTIM— FOUR BULLETS TO EXTRACT !
ANOTHER HOUR.
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL DR. KENT BE IN SURGERY?


TAKE HER TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL. BETTER THAN LETTING HER LANGUISH HERE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SUCH A BIG HOSPITAL, AND NOT A SINGLE DOCTOR? SHAME ON YOU!!
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE. KEEP HER GOING FOR JUST ONE HOUR.
SHE'LL DIE!
ON ONE CONDITION.
I'LL DO IT.
GOOD-BYE, THEN.
WAIT! YOU SURE YOU CAN?
UNTIL I'M DONE, KEEP IT QUIET.
I DON'T LIKE TO BE INTERRUPTED.
I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE. BUT I CAN DO A BIT OF SURGERY.
HA! WHO EVER HEARD OF LETTING AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR OPERATE?
NO WAY.

ESPECIALLY IF YOU LET A STRANGER OPERATE ON YOUR PATIENT.
SHE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
CAN YOU REALLY SAVE HER? IF SHE DIES, WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?
WE CAN'T! THERE'S NO TIME!
TAKE HER TO CENTRAL HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY.
SHE'LL DIE.
THAT'S NOT FUNNY... FORGET IT.
WHEEL HER IN, I.V. AND ALL. GENTLY!
WE'LL ASSIST YOU.
IF SHE'S DOOMED ANYWAY... HAVE A SHOT AT IT!
FINE!
GET AN INCUBATOR READY!
WILL SHE BE ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR?


OPENING ABDOMEN AT MIDLINE. WE'LL GET THAT BABY OUT.

KEEP THE BLOOD FLOWING.

WATCH THE ECG!

HE HAS A SCAR ACROSS HIS CHEEK. A BLACK CAPE... YES, I WAS AGAINST IT!
YES, DIRECTOR! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

A SCAR ACROSS HIS CHEEK AND A BLACK CAPE... DAMN!

OF ALL THE IDIOTIC... WAS THERE NO SURGEON ON DUTY? WELL... YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME...

NELA-TON!

CONST-RICTING THE AORTA.

THAT'S WHAT CAUSED THE RUPTURE.

THE BABY WAS TOO BIG FOR THE BIRTH CANAL—

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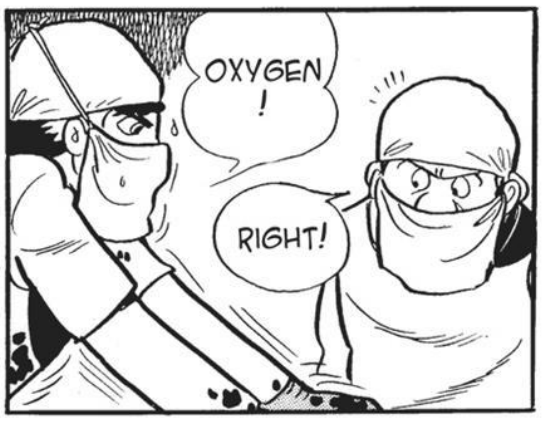
NASAL ASPIRATOR!

TAKE OVER. I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE MOTHER.

ピッ ピッ ピッ ピッ

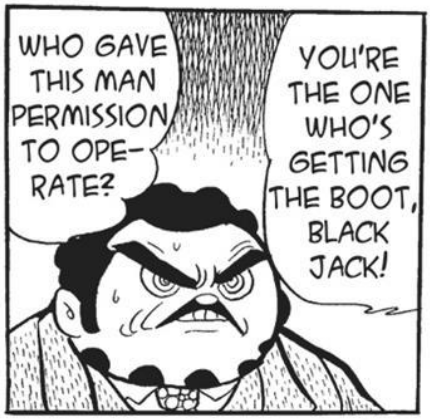

OXYGEN!
RIGHT!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BLACK JACK!

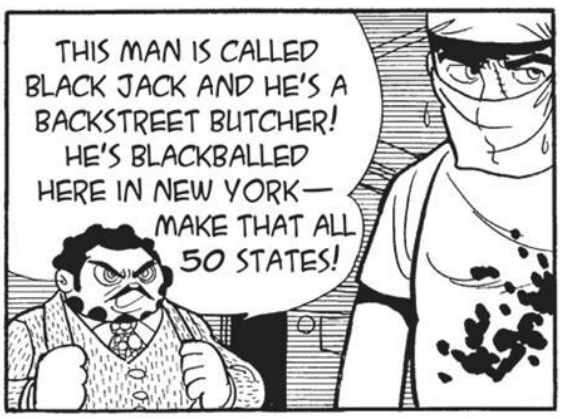
KEEP UP TRANSFUSION. VASOPRESSOR NOT NEEDED.

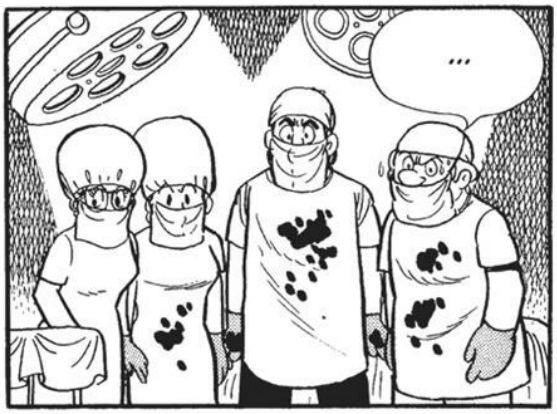
HER BLOOD PRESSURE'S PLUMMETING! SHE'S IN DANGER!

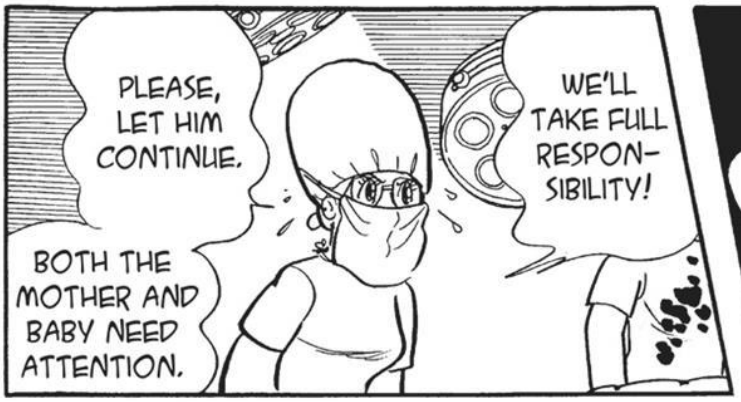
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE KING! JUST DON'T INTERFERE.
SOMEONE GET HIM OUT OF HERE.


WHO GAVE THIS MAN PERMISSION TO OPE-RATE?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GETTING THE BOOT, BLACK JACK!

GET OUT!! I'M PERFORMING SURGERY HERE!
I'M THE DIRECTOR OF THIS HOSPITAL.


THIS MAN IS CALLED BLACK JACK AND HE'S A BACKSTREET BUTCHER! HE'S BLACKBALLED HERE IN NEW YORK— MAKE THAT ALL 50 STATES!


...


PLEASE, LET HIM CONTINUE.
BOTH THE MOTHER AND BABY NEED ATTENTION.
WE'LL TAKE FULL RESPON-SIBILITY!

HE'S A RACKETEER! HE USES HIS TRIFLING SURGICAL SKILLS TO PREY OFF OF HOSPITALS NEAR AND FAR!

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST COME IN HERE AND TAKE OVER.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FINISH THIS.

NOT THIS RUFFIAN!
I FORBID IT!
DR. STEIN WILL BE IN MOMENTARILY !

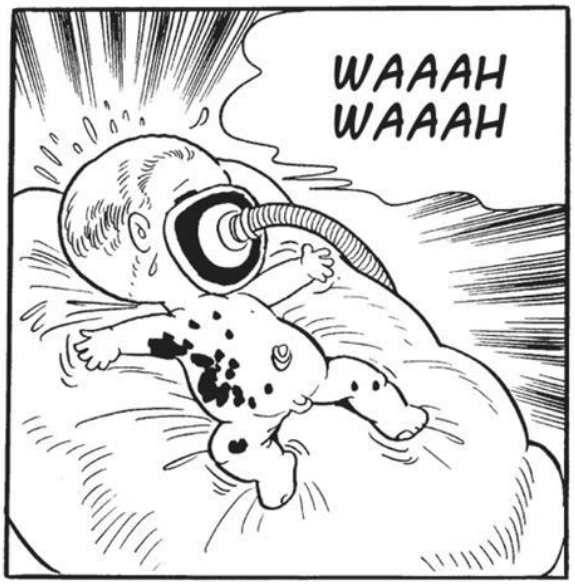
SKY-HIGH! FORCES PEOPLE TO PAY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!
HE'S JUST LIKE A GANGSTER!
THEN I'LL SAY IT! THIS MAN DEMANDS CRIMINALLY HIGH FEES!

BUT THE PATIENT'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
I WON'T ALLOW THIS HOSPITAL TO BE BAMBOOZLED.
HE'S ALREADY STRUCK SEVERAL VICTIMS IN NEW YORK.
EVEN IF IT PUTS THIS HOSPITAL IN FINANCIAL PERIL?
WOULD YOU HAVE US LOSE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR THE LIFE OF ONE PATIENT?
NOW, GET OUT! OR ELSE ...
IT IS.
IS IT TRUE, DOCTOR?
DIRECTOR !!
DID I HEAR RIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST A NURSE.
YOU'D PUT THE HOSPITAL'S FINANCES ABOVE A PATIENT'S LIFE?
I'LL HAVE THEM YANK YOU AWAY.

WAAAH

WAAAAH

THE BABY'S BREATHING, DOCTOR.
BARRRF
BRRRRF
ON


WAAAH WAAAH

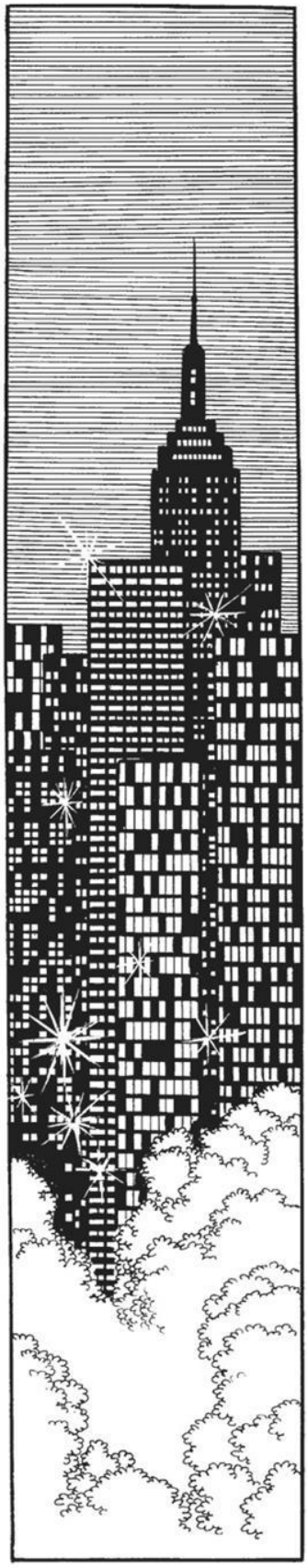
URR...

YOUR BABY'S BEEN BORN, MA'AM. YOU'LL SEE HIM SOON.

AH, NOW... THAT'S A GOOD BOY.

THEY GRILLED ME AND LET ME GO.
DID THE POLICE ...?

AND THE MOTHER AND CHILD?
THEY ARE JUST FINE.
GOOD ...

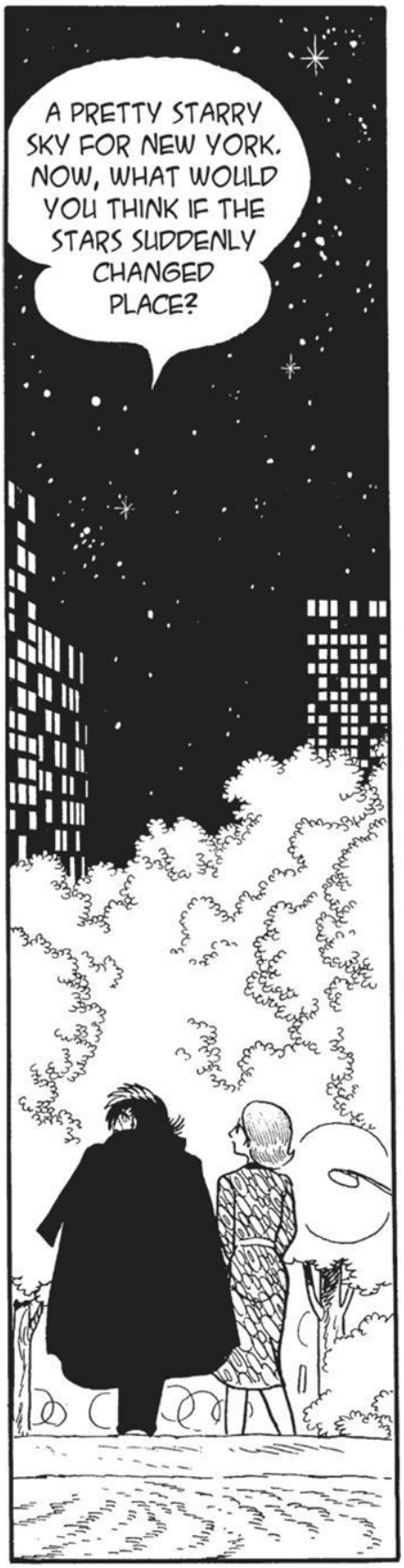


SAVE THE MOTHER FIRST!
IT'S NO GOOD SAVING THE BABY IF THE MOTHER DIES.

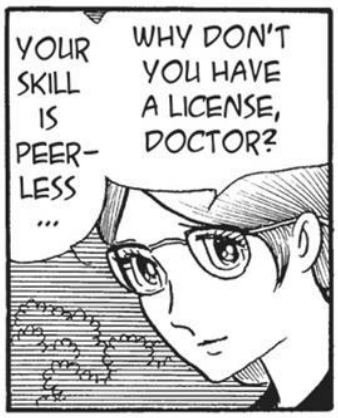
MY WAY SAVES BOTH OF THEM.

...

RELAX.
JUST THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
ホッ PHEW
MAKES ME NOT WANT TO CHARGE YOU. HA HA.


A PRETTY STARRY SKY FOR NEW YORK. NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF THE STARS SUDDENLY CHANGED PLACE?

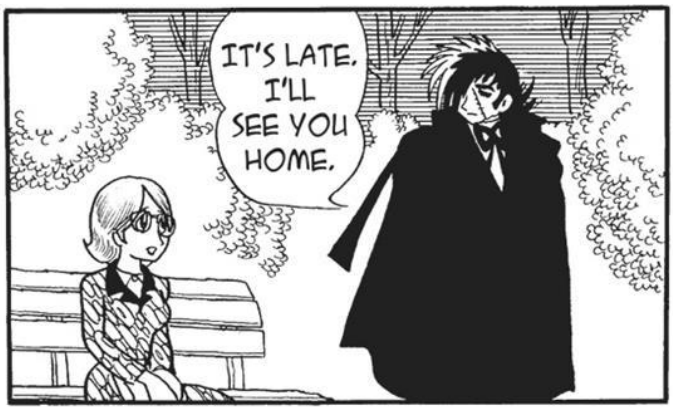
A LICENSE BRINGS A LOT OF TROUBLE, TOO ...

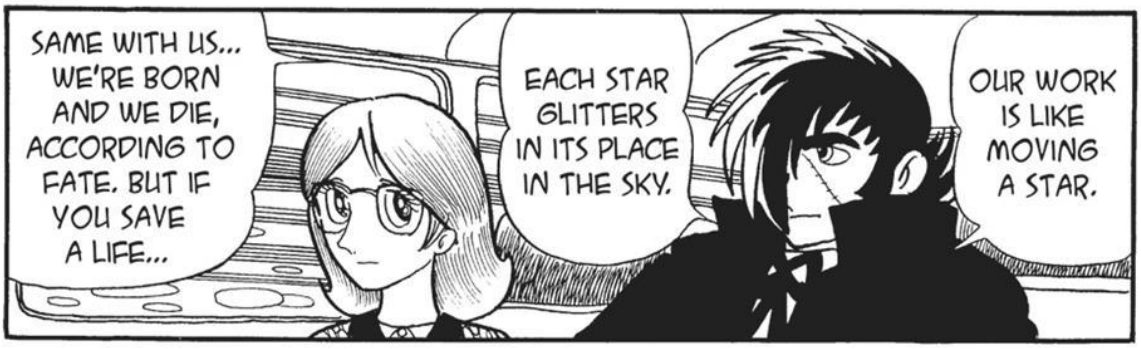

YOUR SKILL IS PEER-LESS ...
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LICENSE, DOCTOR?

I'M... I'M NOT SURE I CHOSE THE RIGHT CAREER...

...

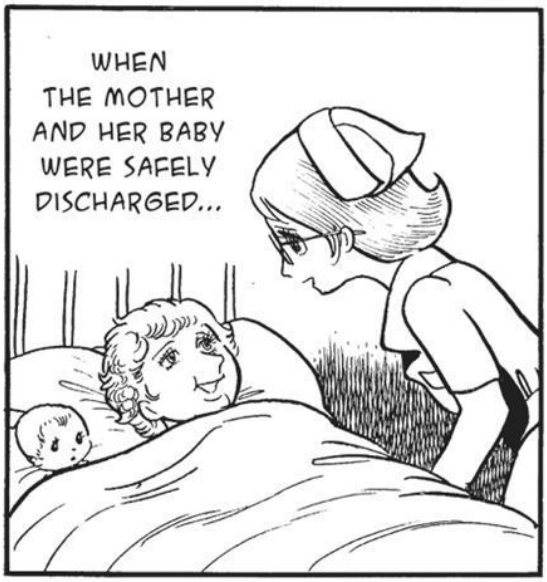
I WONDER IF I SHOULD BE MORE DETACHED, LIKE THE OTHERS...


IT'S LATE. I'LL SEE YOU HOME.


SAME WITH US... WE'RE BORN AND WE DIE, ACCORDING TO FATE. BUT IF YOU SAVE A LIFE...
EACH STAR GLITTERS IN ITS PLACE IN THE SKY.
OUR WORK IS LIKE MOVING A STAR.

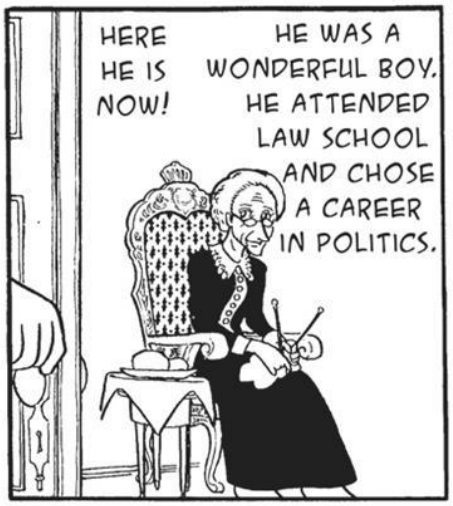
CAN WE MEET AGAIN ?
I DOUBT IT.

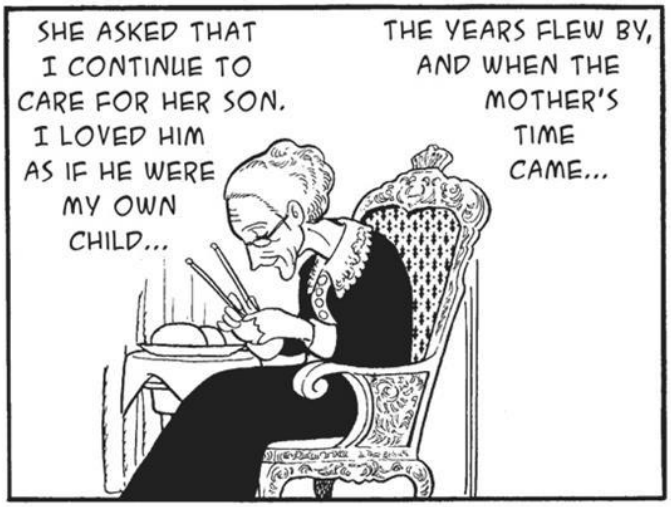
AND CHANGE THAT LIFE, YOU MIGHT EVEN CHANGE HISTORY.

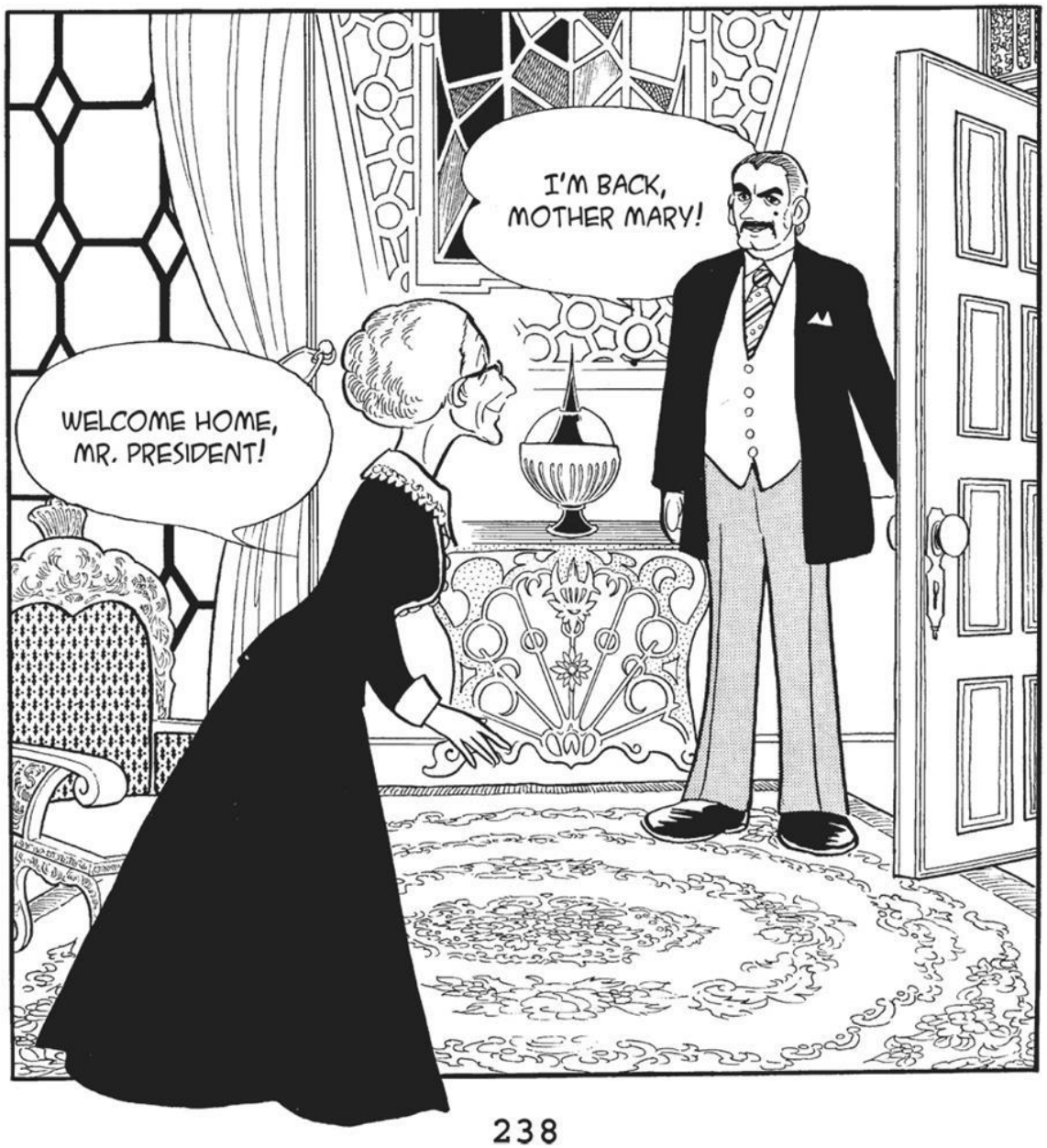

WHEN THE MOTHER AND HER BABY WERE SAFELY DISCHARGED...

I WAS BESEECHED TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL TO BECOME THE CHILD'S NANNY.

I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN. BUT HIS WORDS ECHOED DEEPLY IN MY HEART AND STAYED. PERHAPS HE HAD EXPERIENCED SOMETHING MOMENTOUS THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE.

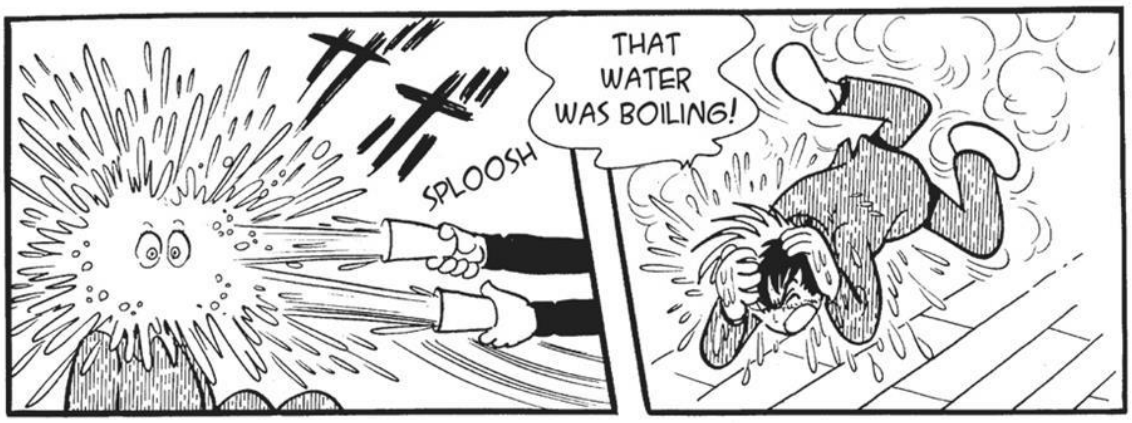

HERE HE IS NOW!
HE WAS A WONDERFUL BOY. HE ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL AND CHOSE A CAREER IN POLITICS.

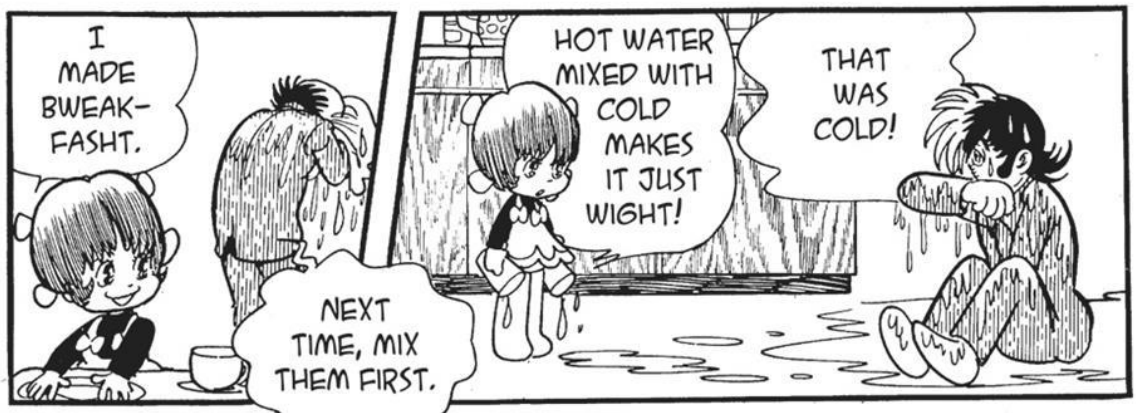

SHE ASKED THAT I CONTINUE TO CARE FOR HER SON. I LOVED HIM AS IF HE WERE MY OWN CHILD...
THE YEARS FLEW BY, AND WHEN THE MOTHER'S TIME CAME...


I'M BACK, MOTHER MARY!
WELCOME HOME, MR. PRESIDENT!

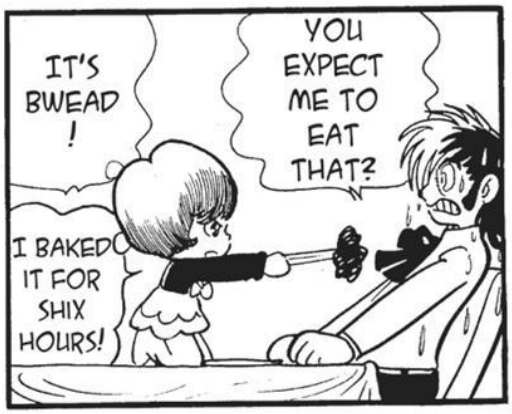
PINOKO LOVES YOU

YIKES!
WHAP
KRAK
DO I SENSE MURDEROUS INTENT IN YOUR METHOD?
YOU'RE NOT GLAD I WOKE YOU UP?
HOT WATER!
TIME TO WASH YOUR FACE!


SPLOOSH
THAT WATER WAS BOILING!


I MADE BWEAK-FASHT.
NEXT TIME, MIX THEM FIRST.
HOT WATER MIXED WITH COLD MAKES IT JUST WIGHT!
THAT WAS COLD!

!

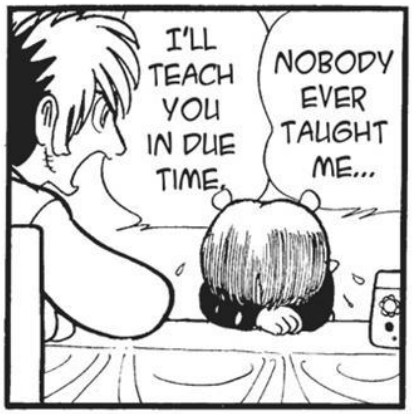

IT'S BWEAD !
YOU EXPECT ME TO EAT THAT?
I BAKED IT FOR SHIX HOURS!

TH-THIS IS CHARCOAL!

BE GOOD AND FORGET ABOUT MAKING BREAKFAST TOMORROW, OKAY?

EAT IT, OR I'LL SHLIT YOUR FROAT!

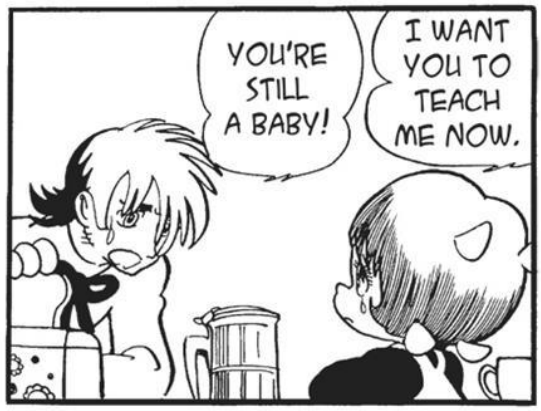
STOP! NOT DURING MEALTIME!
WHAFF
WHAFF


I'LL TEACH YOU IN DUE TIME.
NOBODY EVER TAUGHT ME...

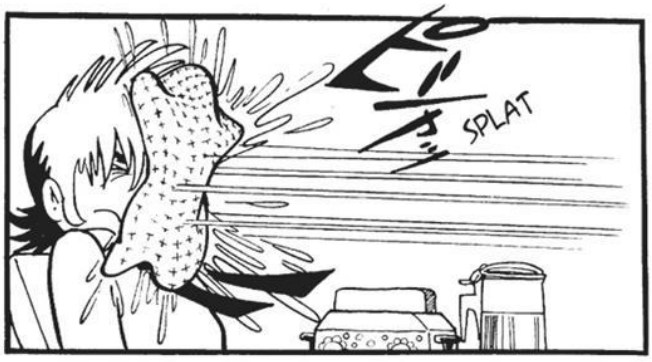
...

I SAID STOP!

I'M 18!
WHAT A WUDE FING TO SHAY!

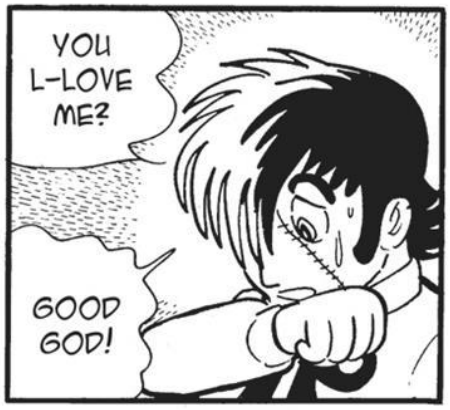

YOU'RE STILL A BABY!
I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME NOW.

BUT YOU WERE ONLY BORN 10 DAYS AGO. THAT MAKES YOU ZERO!
IT'S TRUE YOU WERE INSIDE HER FOR 18 YEARS,
BESIDES, YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE WORLD! THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A BABY!


SPLAT

A VIWGIN MAIDEN !
A GIWL OF 18 IS A YOUNG LADY!

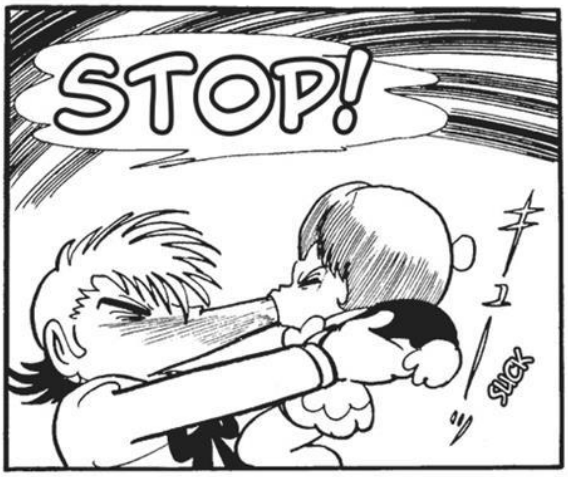
OH YEAH ?
MY SHISHTER'S 18, SO THAT MAKES PINOKO 18, TOO!
I WAS GWOWING IN MY SHISHTER'S BODY THE WHOLE TIME!


YOU L-LOVE ME?
GOOD GOD!

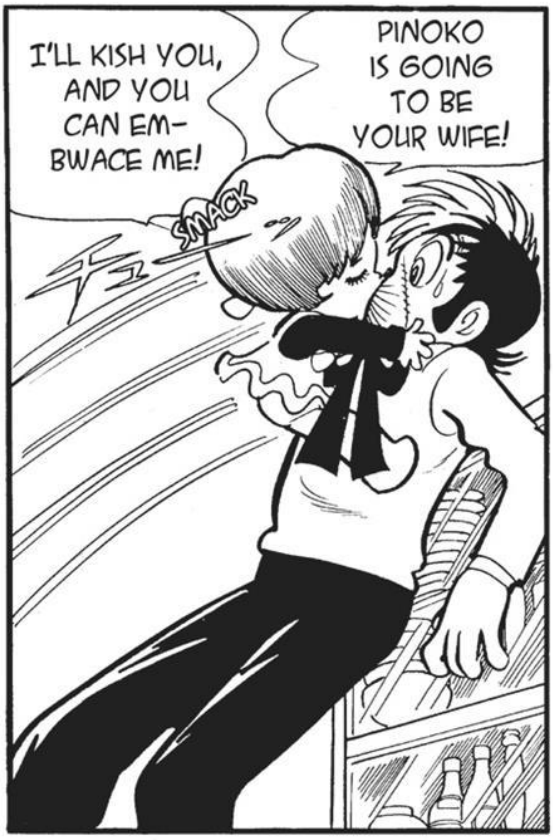
I LOVE YOU.

INSHIDE BIG SHISH'S TUMMY!
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE ?

WITH ALL MY LIFE!
YES, I DO.


STOP!
SUCK

LOVE MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

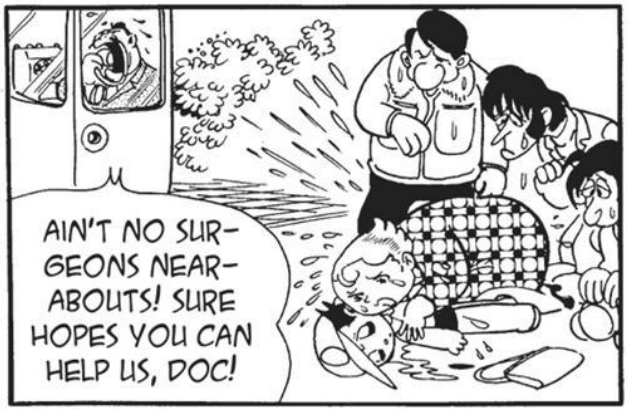

I'LL KISH YOU, AND YOU CAN EM-BWACE ME!
PINOKO IS GOING TO BE YOUR WIFE!
SMACK

YOU SEE, I PERFORM ANY OPERATION FOR THE RIGHT PRICE.
I'M NOT CAPABLE OF LOVING OTHERS.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DID THAT SURGERY BECAUSE THEY PAID ME A FORTUNE!
I COULD BLACK-MAIL THEM FOR MORE!
I THOUGHT IF I MADE YOU INTO A PERSON AND SCARED THEM,
THEN WHY DID YOU WESCUE PINOKO?
NO! NO! NO!
IT'S NOT TWUE!
RRRRRING
IF YOU DON'T PIPE DOWN I'LL TAKE YOU APART AGAIN AND STICK YOU BACK IN THE CULTURE MEDIUM!
SHUDDAP!

MUH BOY'S BEEN HIT BY A TRUCK!

WHAT?! A HIT-AND-RUN?

BY THE BY, HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?


AIN'T NO SUR-GEONS NEAR-ABOUTS! SURE HOPES YOU CAN HELP US, DOC!

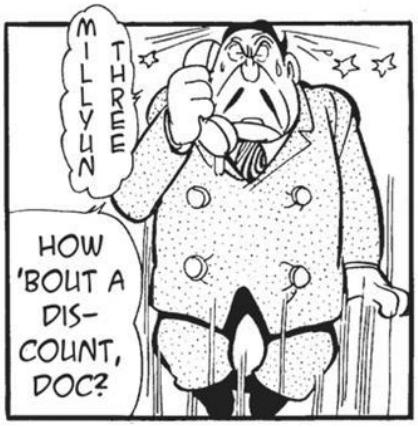
I'LL SAVE HIS LIFE FOR 3 MILLION YEN.

KIN YA GIVE ME A BALLPARK FIGYER?

I NEED TO SEE HIM FIRST.

JUS' A LIL DIS-COUNT ?
BUT THREE MILLYUN !!

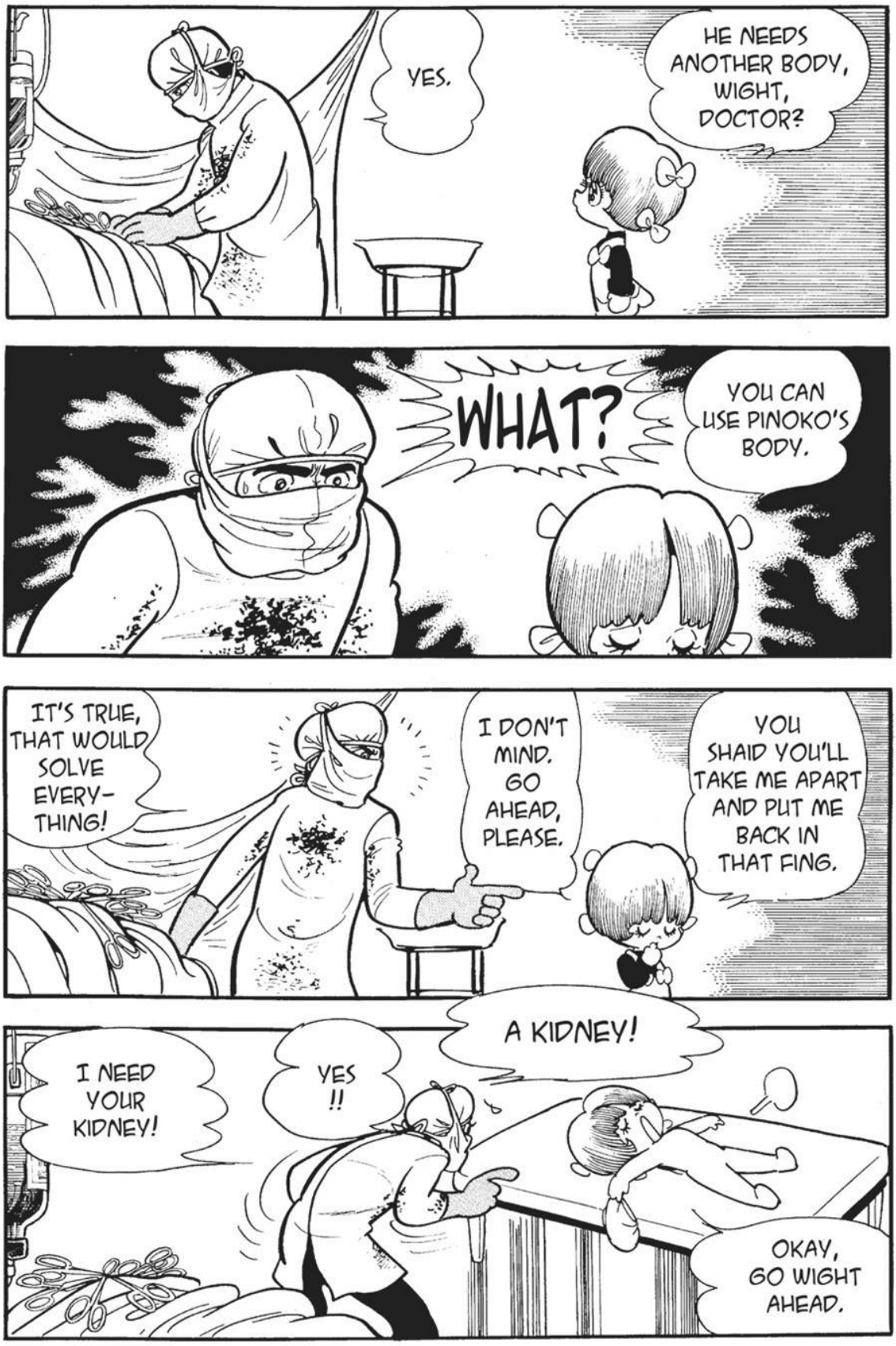
THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD
IS AT STAKE HERE!


THREE MILLYUN
HOW 'BOUT A DIS-COUNT, DOC?

2.3 MILLION!
LIL BIT LESS ?
I'LL MAKE IT 2.5!
OH HO! I GOTTA DEAL!
NAME YOUR PRICE!
JUS' A WEENIE LIL BIT LESS, DOC?
KCHAK
DOCTOR! PLEASE, SAVE MY CHILD!
DOCTORS THESE DAYS AIN'T NO GOOD AT DEAL-WRANGLIN'! I GOT HIM TO KNOCK IT DOWN TO 2.2 MILLYUN!
DON'T TELL ME THE CAR FARE'S EXTRA, NOW?
IT'S INCLUDED, AIN'T IT?
NOW DOC, I HOPES YOU DON'T MIND OUR LIL DEAL!

GET OUT, PLEASE.
THE TRUCK RAN OVER HIS STOMACH. HE PROBABLY HAS SOME RUPTURED ORGANS. I'LL OPEN HIM UP AND ASSESS THE DAMAGE.
BE SURE AN' SAVE MUH SON, DOC! I'M PREPARED TO PAY CASH!

AND BOTH OF HIS KIDNEYS ARE CRUSHED!
WHAT A MESS! HIS STOMACH AND INTESTINES ARE SHOT IN SEVERAL PLACES!
RECKON THAT'S THE DOC'S LIL GIRL?
I'M THE WIFE!
I'LL HAVE TO TRANSPLANT ONE FROM A DONOR...
HE NEEDS AT LEAST ONE TO LIVE.
I CAN REMOVE HIS STOMACH AND INTESTINES IF I HAVE TO, BUT THAT WON'T DO FOR THE KIDNEYS!
GET OUT OF HERE, FOOL!
A WIFE WOWWIES ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S WOWK.
H-HEY, DON'T DISTURB HIM.
LEAVE ME ALONE!


YES.
HE NEEDS ANOTHER BODY, WIGHT, DOCTOR?
WHAT?
YOU CAN USE PINOKO'S BODY.
IT'S TRUE, THAT WOULD SOLVE EVERY-THING!
I DON'T MIND. GO AHEAD, PLEASE.
YOU SHAID YOU'LL TAKE ME APART AND PUT ME BACK IN THAT FING.
A KIDNEY!
I NEED YOUR KIDNEY!
YES !!
OKAY, GO WIGHT AHEAD.

WAIT, HOW MUCH DOES A KIDNEY COST?

... YOU CAN'T BUY ONE.

PLEASE, GIVE THE BOY MY KIDNEY THEN.
DOC TOR

WILL THIS COST EXTRA?
HOLD ON !!

I HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO ASK YOU.
I'D LIKE ONE OF YOU TO DONATE A KIDNEY TO YOUR SON.
HIS KIDNEYS ARE CRUSHED AND HE NEEDS A NEW ONE. EITHER ONE OF YOU WILL DO— TO THE OPERATING ROOM, NOW!

GO ON, TAKE PINOKO APART.

HA HA

WHAT WAS I THINK-ING!
HOW COULD I EVEN CONSIDER SUCH A THING?

HOW'S ABOUT 500,000? HEH HEH...
LET'S SETTLE THE FEE BEFORE YOU OPERATE ON MAH WIFE, DOC.

OF COURSE IT'S SEPA-RATE.

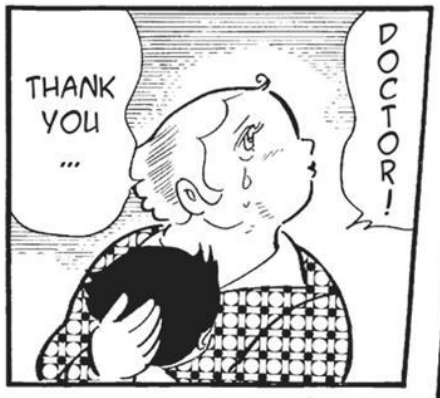
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, DARLING!
THEN WAIT A SEC.

YOU AIN'T GOT A LICK OF BUSINESS SENSE!
DIM-WIT!

GO TO HELL!
KRAK

DOCTOR! THE BOY'S DYING!
HURRY !!
CYAN-OSIS! DAMN IT!
HIS FACE IS ALL BLUE!
HEART MASSAGE...
...
DOCTOR, USE PINOKO'S BODY.
NOW'S THE TIME TO KILL ME!

BLUB
HE'S DEAD.
HE'S ALIVE, YOU CAN HELP HIM!
YOU WOULDN'T FAIL, DOCTOR.
NO... HE CAN'T BE.
CARDIO-NECROSIS. IT HAPPENED IN A FLASH.
IT'S TOO LATE.


DOCTOR!
THANK YOU ...

YOU DID YOUR VERY BEST.
I'M SURE MY SON IS GRATEFUL!

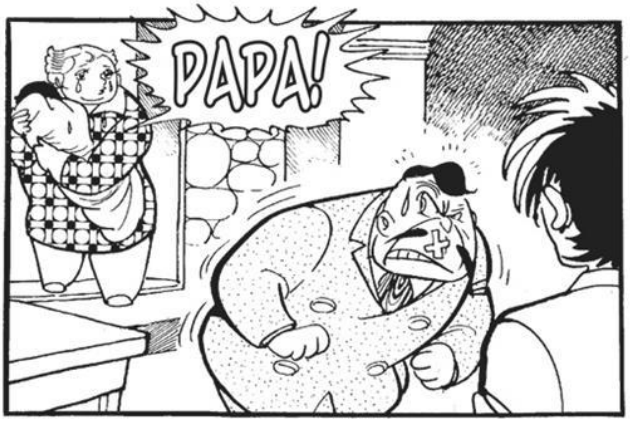
MY BABY, HOW YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED... YOU POOR THING...

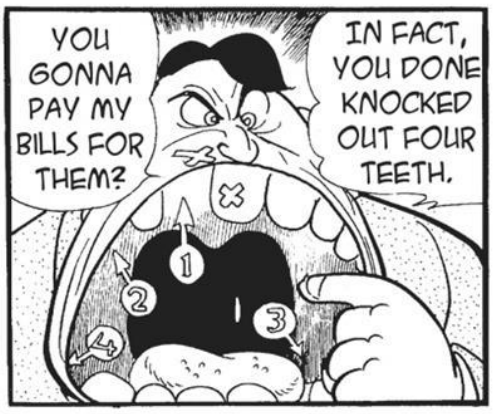
I GETS IT! BECAUSE I GOT A DISCOUNT, YOU WENT IN DID A SLAPDASH JOB!

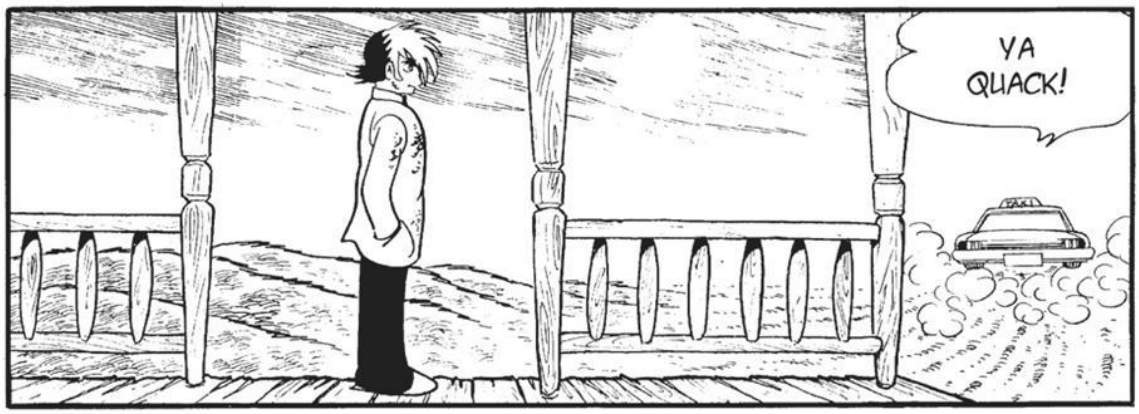
NO! I DID MY BEST.

IS THIS WHAT YA CALL SAVIN'?
DOC, I THOUGHT YA SWORE TO SAVE MAH BOY!
...

I NEVER SHOULDA HIRED ME NO UNLICENSED DOCTOR!
WELL, I AIN'T PAYIN'!
YER BEST?
THE BOY'S DEAD.


PAPA!

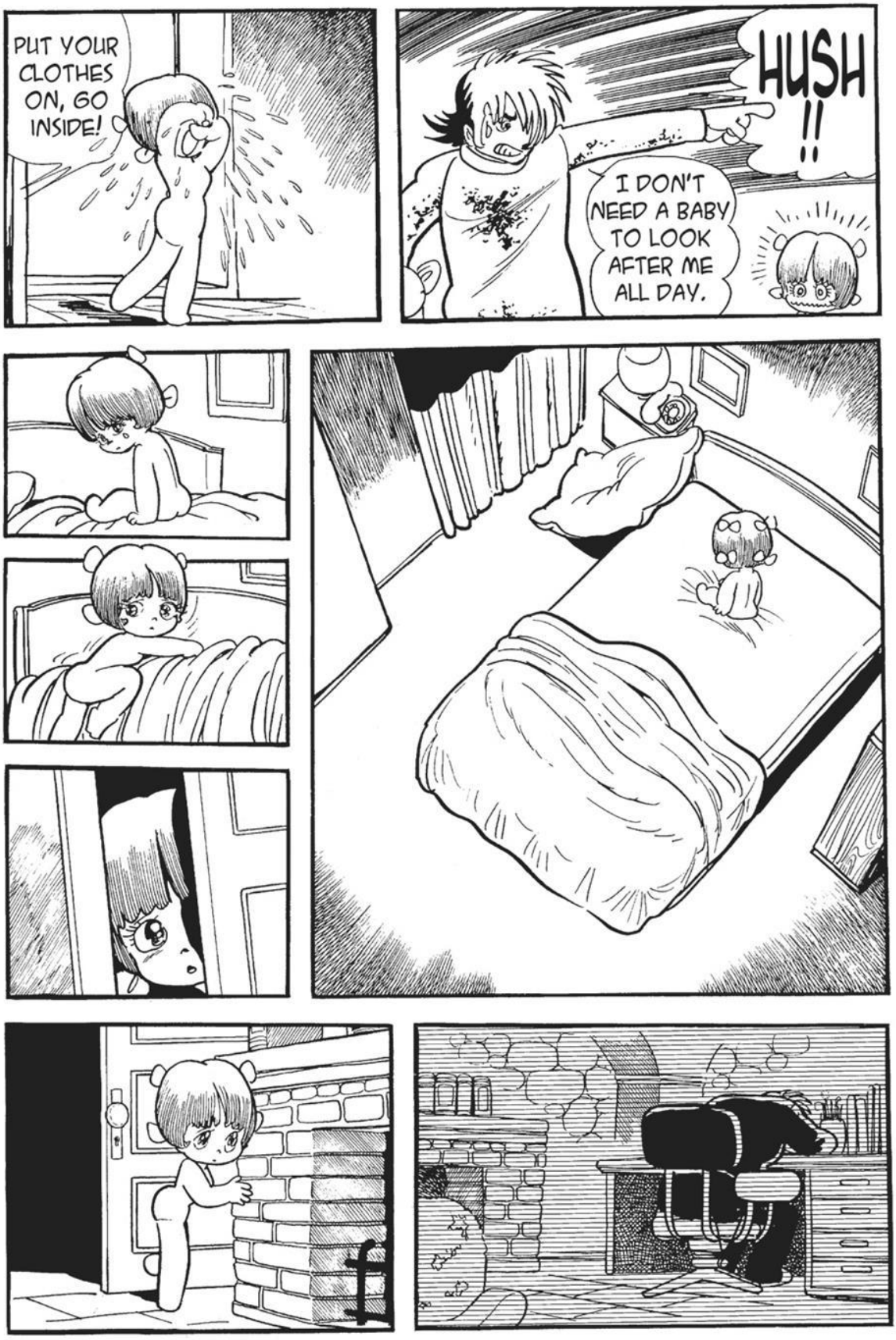

YOU GONNA PAY MY BILLS FOR THEM?
IN FACT, YOU DONE KNOCKED OUT FOUR TEETH.
1
2
3
4


YA QUACK!

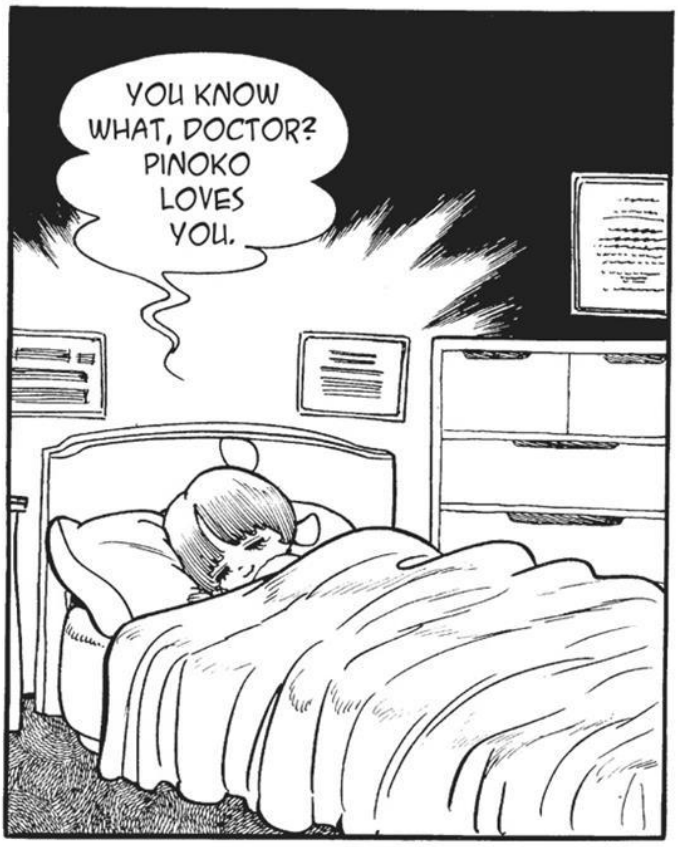
SHTUPID DOCTOR! WHY DIDN'T YOU USE PINOKO'S BODY?

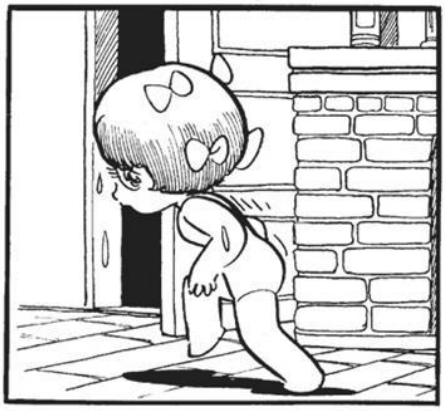
OUR PATIENTS DIE. PEOPLE CURSE US.
DOC-TORS AREN'T GODS.

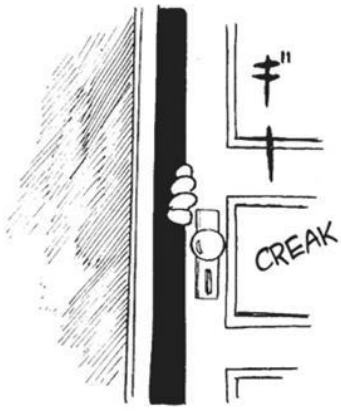
HOW COULD HE SHAY THAT? IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.


PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON, GO INSIDE!
HUSH !!
I DON'T NEED A BABY TO LOOK AFTER ME ALL DAY.

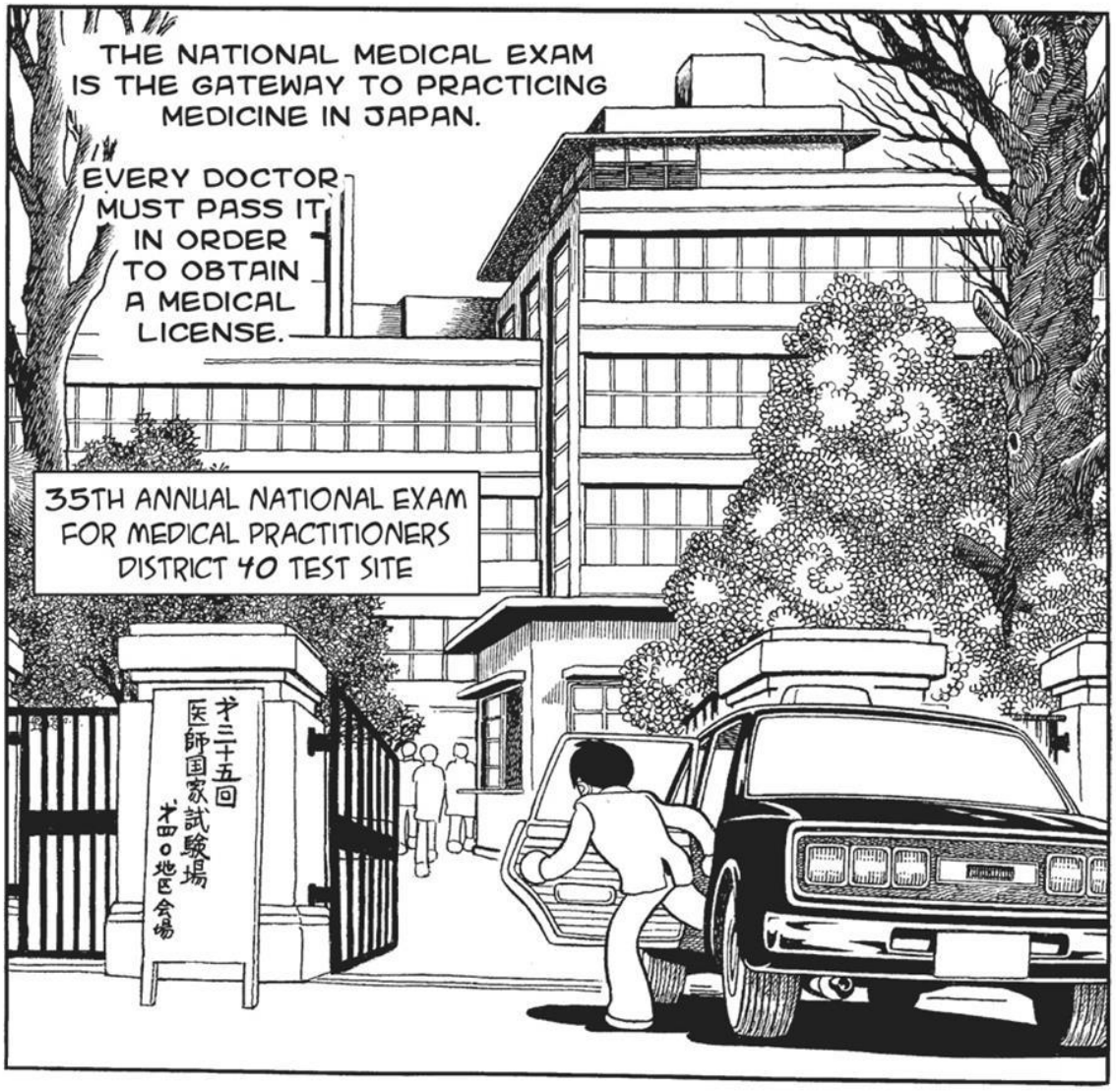
NGG

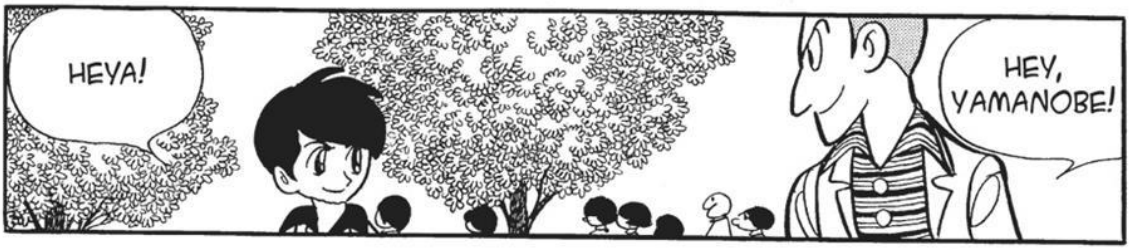

YOU KNOW WHAT, DOCTOR? PINOKO LOVES YOU.

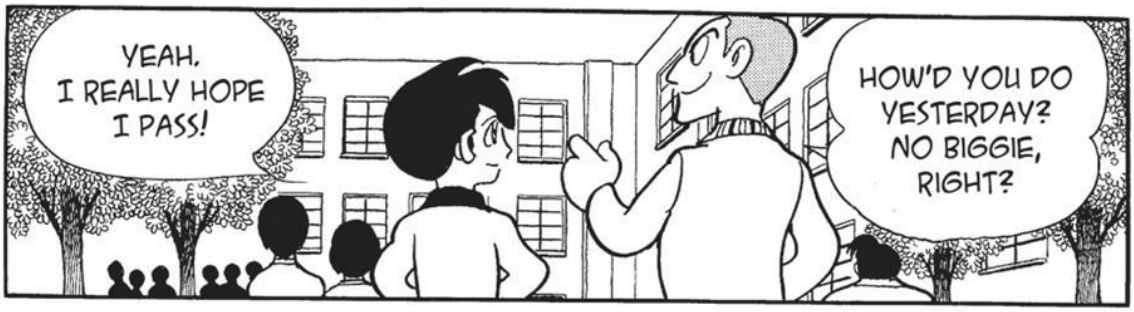



CREAK

TENACITY


THE NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAM IS THE GATEWAY TO PRACTICING MEDICINE IN JAPAN.
EVERY DOCTOR MUST PASS IT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A MEDICAL LICENSE.
35TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EXAM FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS DISTRICT 40 TEST SITE
第三十五回
医師国家試験場
第四〇地区会場


HEYA!
HEY, YAMANOBE!


YEAH. I REALLY HOPE I PASS!
HOW'D YOU DO YESTERDAY? NO BIGGIE, RIGHT?

UH ...

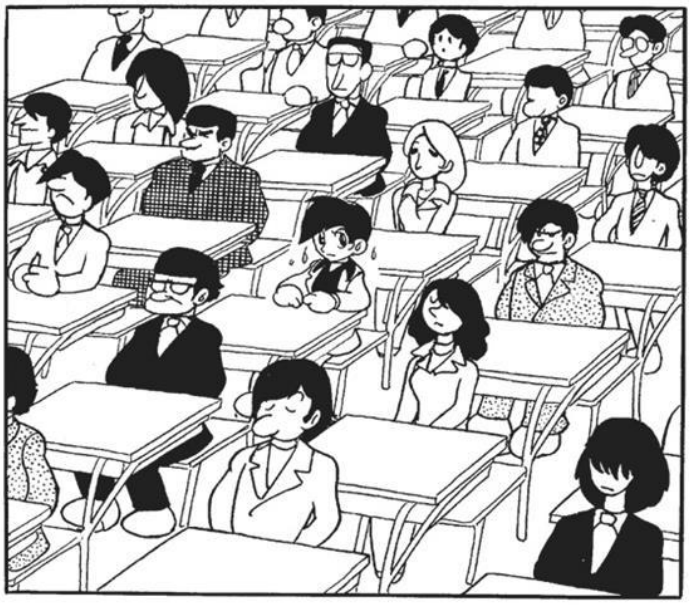
BUMP

I BET TODAY THEY'LL ASK US ABOUT PAGET'S DISEASE...

MY NERVES ARE MAKING MY STOMACH ACT UP, THAT'S ALL.
HA HA! I-I'M FINE!
CONSTI-PATION?

...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
NOT FEELING WELL? AGAIN?

GASP !!
YOUR STOMACH DOES LOOK BLOATED. LOOKS LIKE HYDROPERITONEUM! HA HA HA!



WELL, GOOD LUCK!
YOU TOO!

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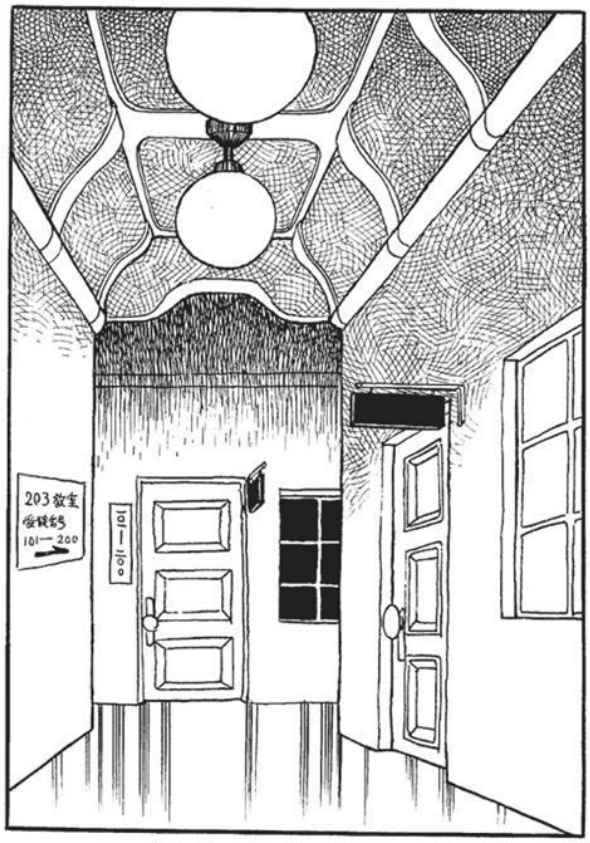
NGG ...


203教室
受験番号
101—200
101—110

HEY, YOU!
FEELING SICK?

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK PALE!

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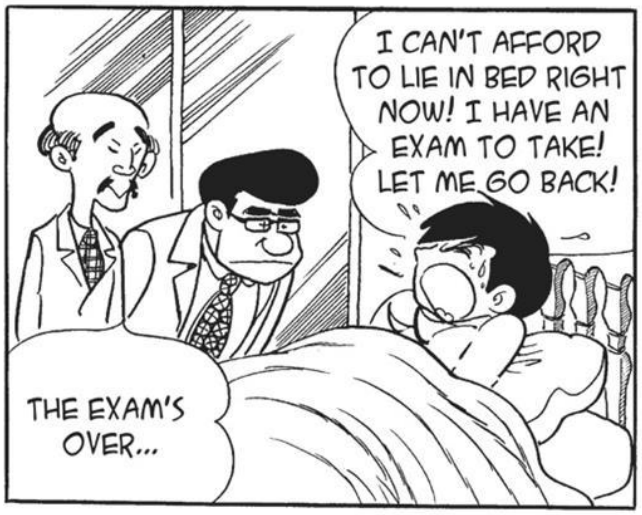
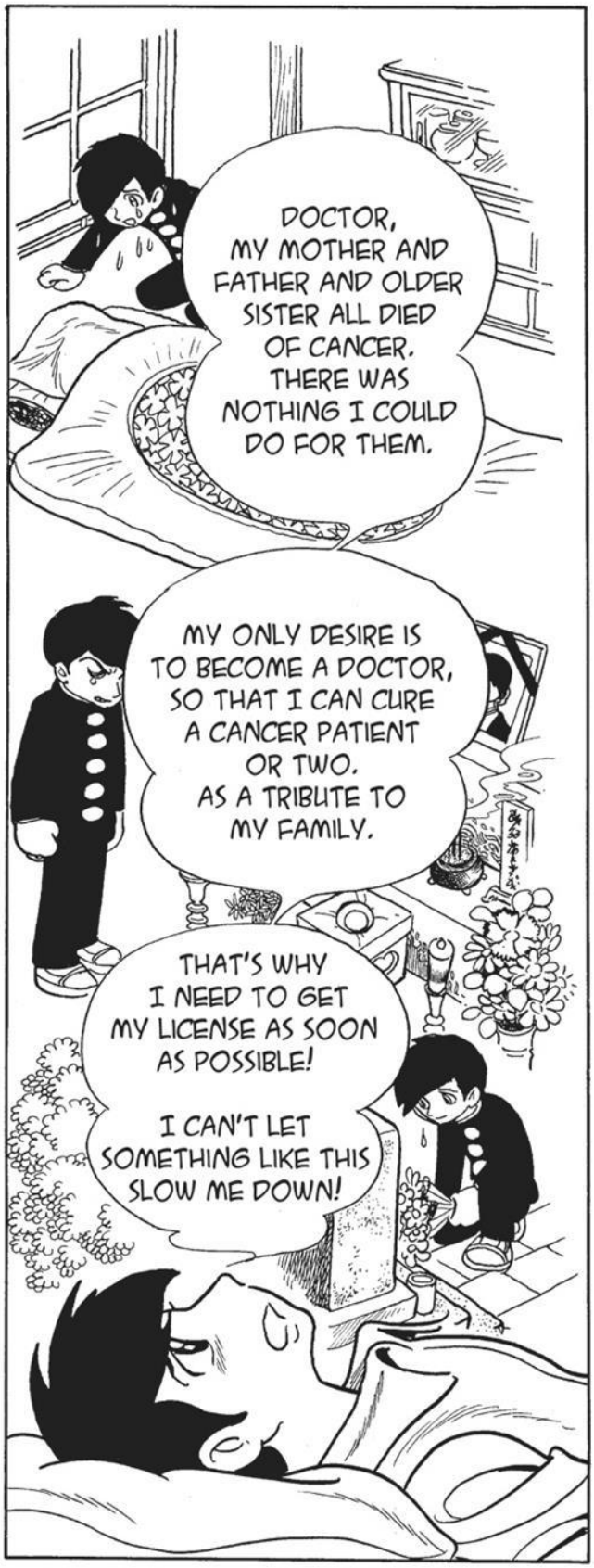
COME ON, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR. YOU CAN SIT FOR IT AGAIN ONCE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.


I CAN'T AFFORD TO LIE IN BED RIGHT NOW! I HAVE AN EXAM TO TAKE! LET ME GO BACK!
THE EXAM'S OVER...

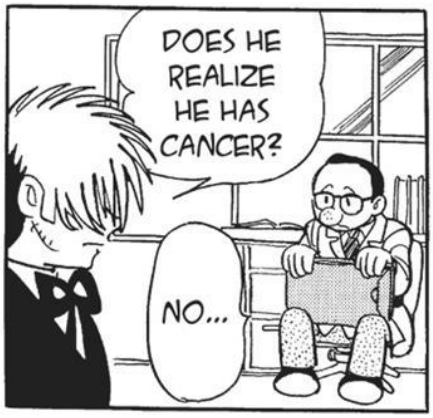
NO NEED TO PANIC. YOU CAN TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

...DAMN!
GNN...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY GOT A GOOD HOLD.
DID YOU NOTICE TOO?
WHAT HAS ?
CANCER, OF COURSE!

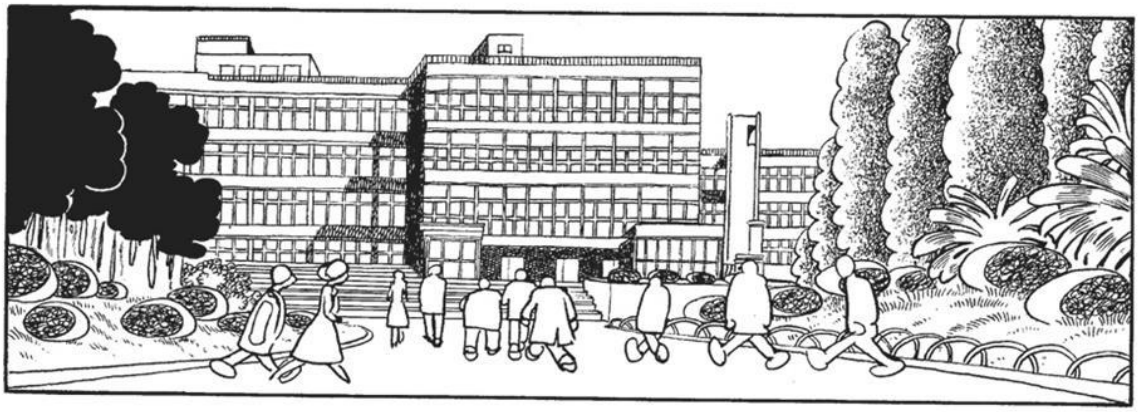

DOCTOR, MY MOTHER AND FATHER AND OLDER SISTER ALL DIED OF CANCER. THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO FOR THEM.
MY ONLY DESIRE IS TO BECOME A DOCTOR, SO THAT I CAN CURE A CANCER PATIENT OR TWO. AS A TRIBUTE TO MY FAMILY.
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO GET MY LICENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I CAN'T LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS SLOW ME DOWN!

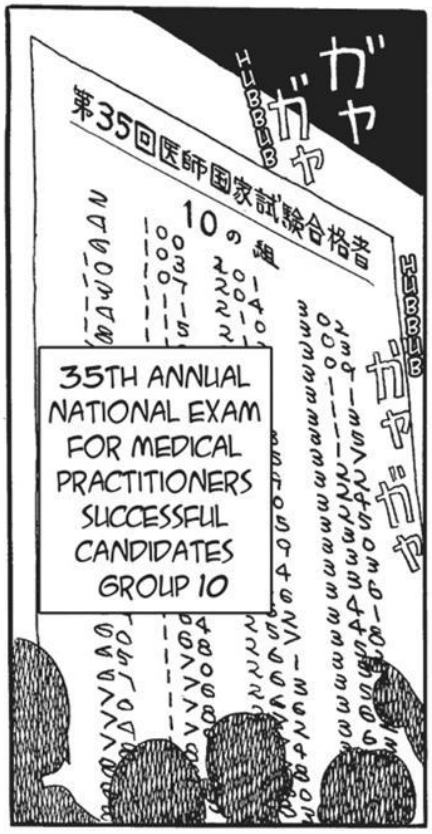
NOTE: THOUGH SPELLED DIFFERENTLY, "KAISEI" IS A GENERAL HOSPITAL OF NOTE IN TEZUKA'S NATIVE KANSAI REGION.


DOES HE REALIZE HE HAS CANCER?
NO...

HE HAS LESS THAN A YEAR LEFT!

YES. HE WANTS TO WORK AT THIS HOSPITAL.
HE WANTS TO BE A DOCTOR?




第35回医師国家試験合格者
10の組
35TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EXAM FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES GROUP 10
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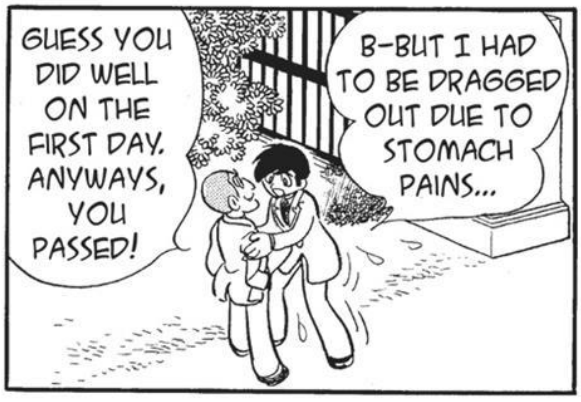
'GRATS! YOU PASSED!
WHAT?!

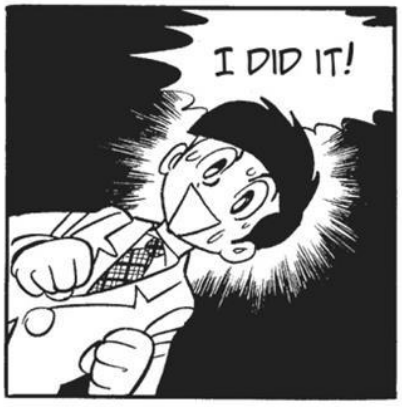
HEY THERE, YAMANOBE!

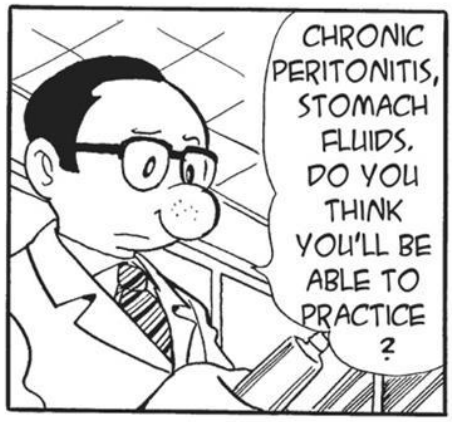
HA HA, I FAILED. I'LL HAVE TO RETAKE IT NEXT YEAR!
AND YOU?


GUESS YOU DID WELL ON THE FIRST DAY. ANYWAYS, YOU PASSED!
B-BUT I HAD TO BE DRAGGED OUT DUE TO STOMACH PAINS...

HOORAY! I DID IT! HA HA HA HA!

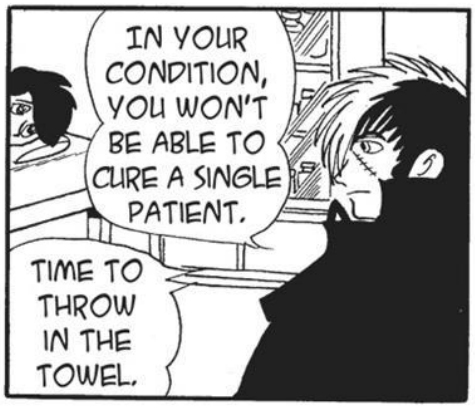
I DID IT.


I DID IT!


CHRONIC PERITONITIS, STOMACH FLUIDS. DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PRACTICE ?

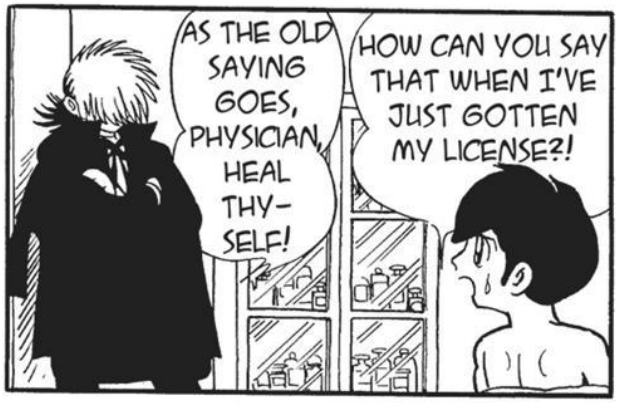
I WILL! I HAVE TO!

I GOT MY MEDICAL LICENSE, DOCTOR! AREN'T YOU GOING TO CONGRATULATE ME?


IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CURE A SINGLE PATIENT.
TIME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.

I'LL BE BLUNT. YOU CAN'T.

CAN EARN HIS WARDS' TRUST ?
YOU'RE GRAVELY ILL. YOU THINK A DOCTOR IN YOUR CONDI-TION...


AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, PHYSICIAN, HEAL THY-SELF!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN I'VE JUST GOTTEN MY LICENSE?!

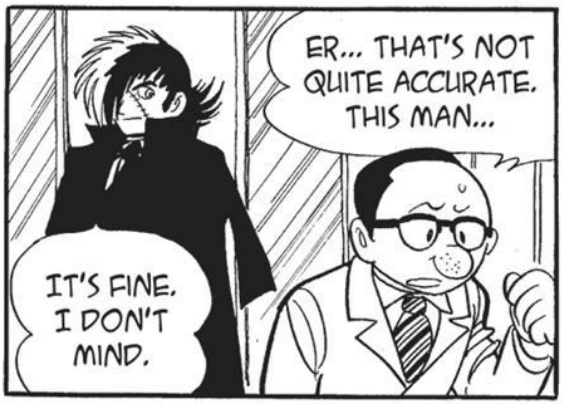
A SICK DOCTOR HAS NO BUSINESS PRACTICING! YOU'RE LIABLE TO COMMIT ERRORS!
LISTEN, KID! WHAT IF YOU'RE CARRYING A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE?

HE'S A BLACK MARKET, MONEY-GRUBBING PARIAH.
YES, I DO.

YOU KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS?

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BEING AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR LIKE, SAY... YOU!

BUT HEED MY WARN-ING!
I AM A BLACK MARKET, MONEY-GRUBBING PARIAH.


ER... THAT'S NOT QUITE ACCURATE. THIS MAN...
IT'S FINE. I DON'T MIND.

THAT'S WHAT THE KID WANTS!

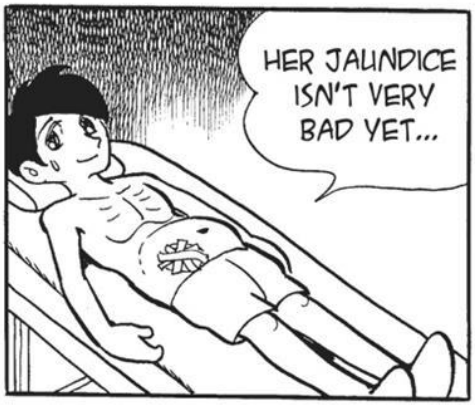
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A PATIENT?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ARE YOU LEAVING NOW?

YOUR PATIENT IS INSIDE THIS ROOM.
HOW'S THE PAIN?
OOPS! SORRY.
WHAT IS THIS ?!
AH... UH... PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
W-WELL, LET ME EXAMINE YOU!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR.
THIS IS DR. YAMANOBE. HE'LL BE YOUR DOCTOR FROM NOW ON.

ONCE MORE ...
A DEEP BREATH ...
HE STRIKES ME AS SORT OF FEEBLE. HE'S TERRIBLY PALE...
HE IS NICE... BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM ...
YES...
THE NEW DOCTOR'S AWFULLY KIND AND POLITE, ISN'T HE, MOM?
WELL, THE LUMP IN HER LIVER, FOR ONE THING.
WHAT TIPPED YOU OFF?
YES. WE STRONGLY SUSPECT HEPATOMA, TOO.
AND SHE'S SLIGHTLY JAUN-DICED.
SHE HAS LIVER CANCER, DOESN'T SHE ?

!


HER JAUNDICE ISN'T VERY BAD YET...

IT COULD BE GALLBLADDER CANCER, NO?

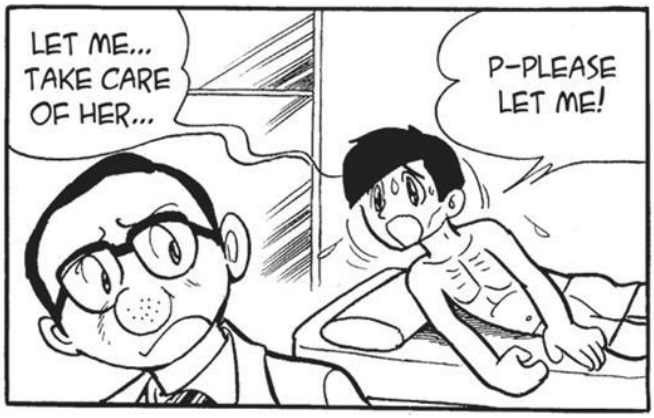
BUT MY CHEST ACHES WHEN I LIE DOWN. I FEEL BETTER BEING UP AND ABOUT...

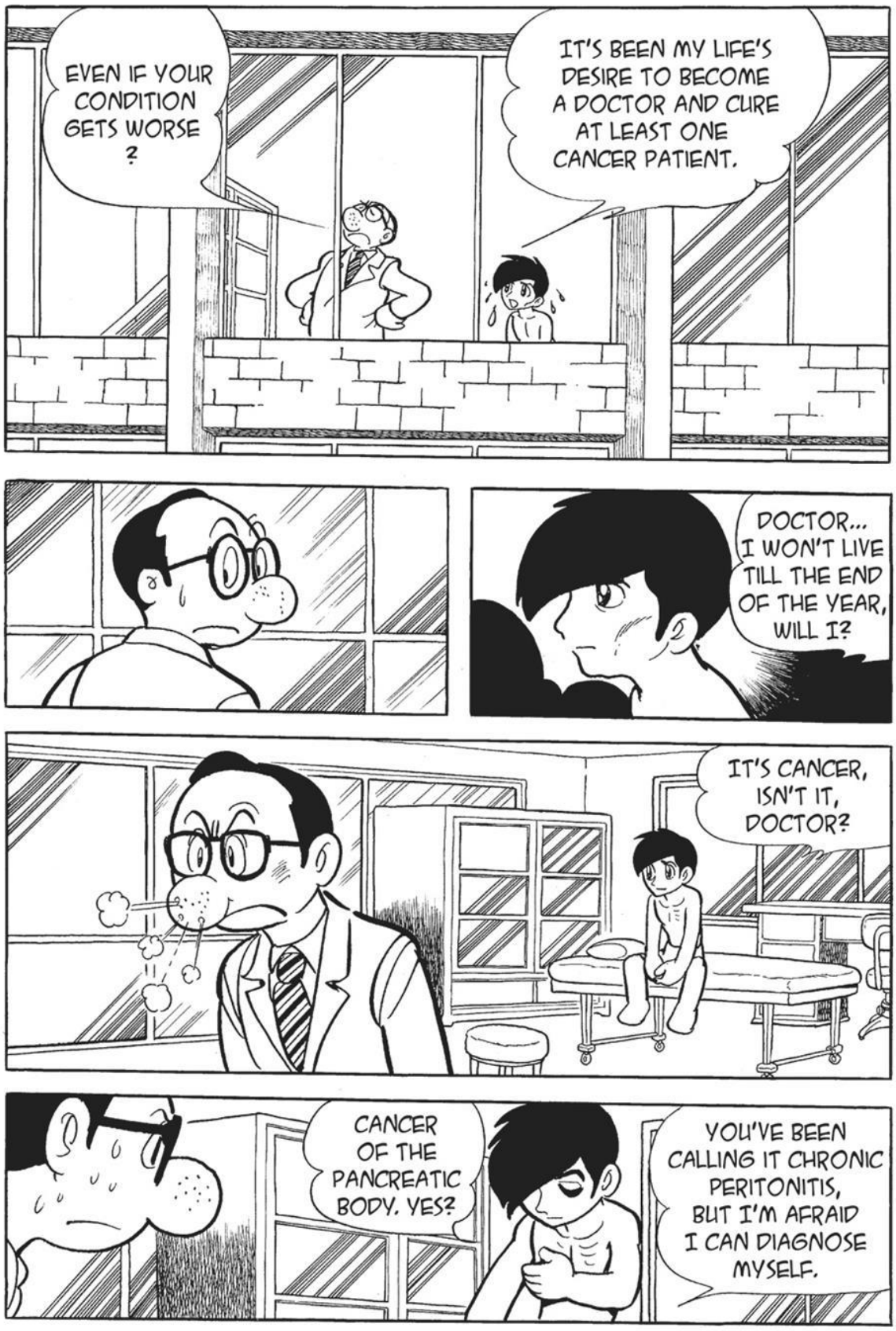
STAY IN BED, STARTING TODAY!

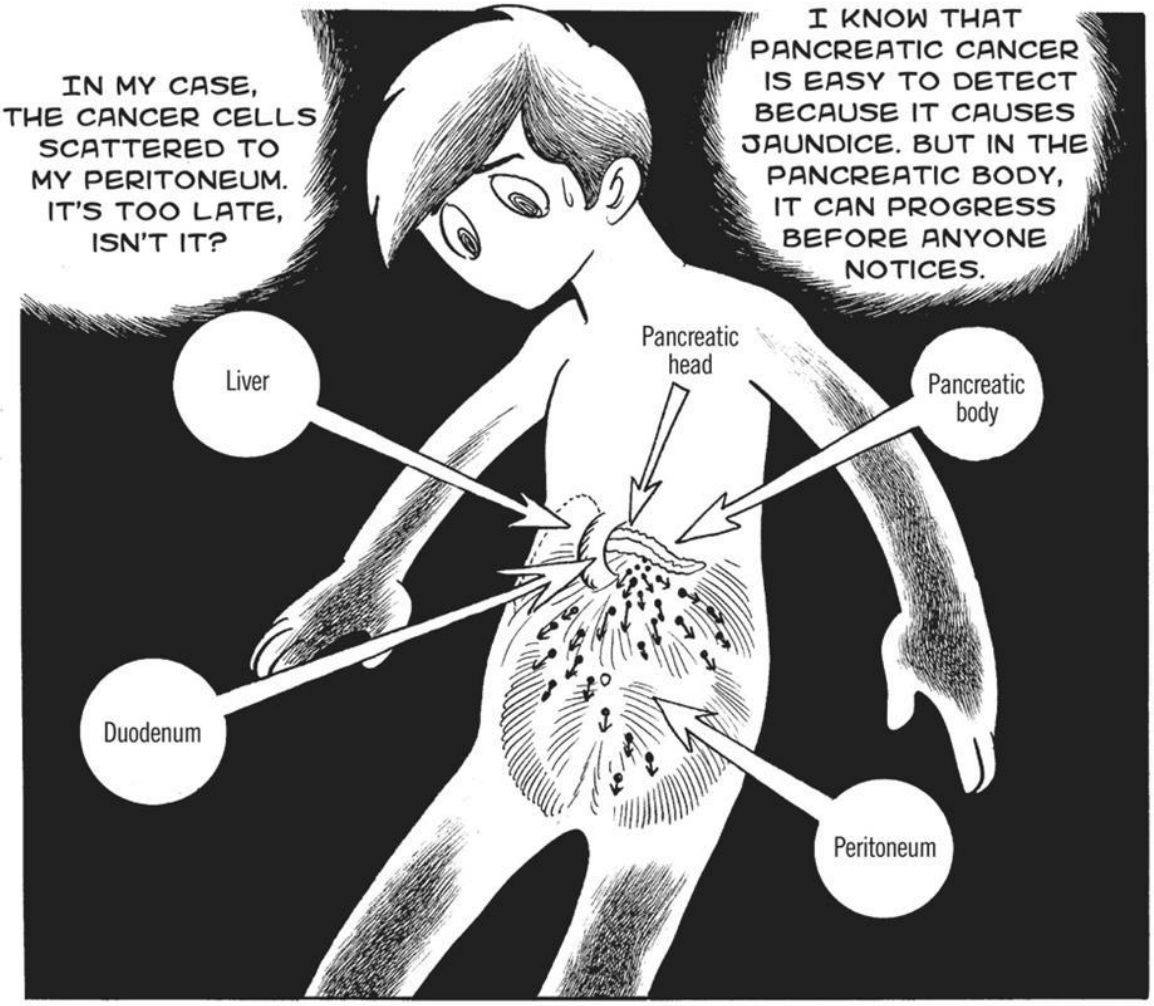
WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN BODY, BEFORE ANYONE ELSE'S.
LOOK AT YOUR BELLY!
THE FLUID'S WORSE THAN EVER.

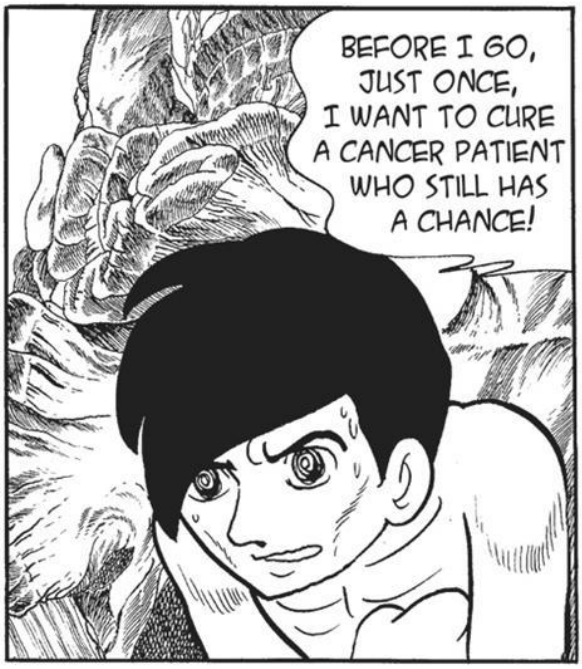
DOCTOR...

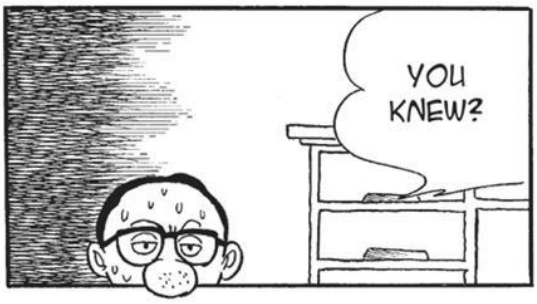
NO, YAMANOBE. YOU'RE SICK!
I WON'T LET YOU WORK!!


LET ME... TAKE CARE OF HER...
P-PLEASE LET ME!

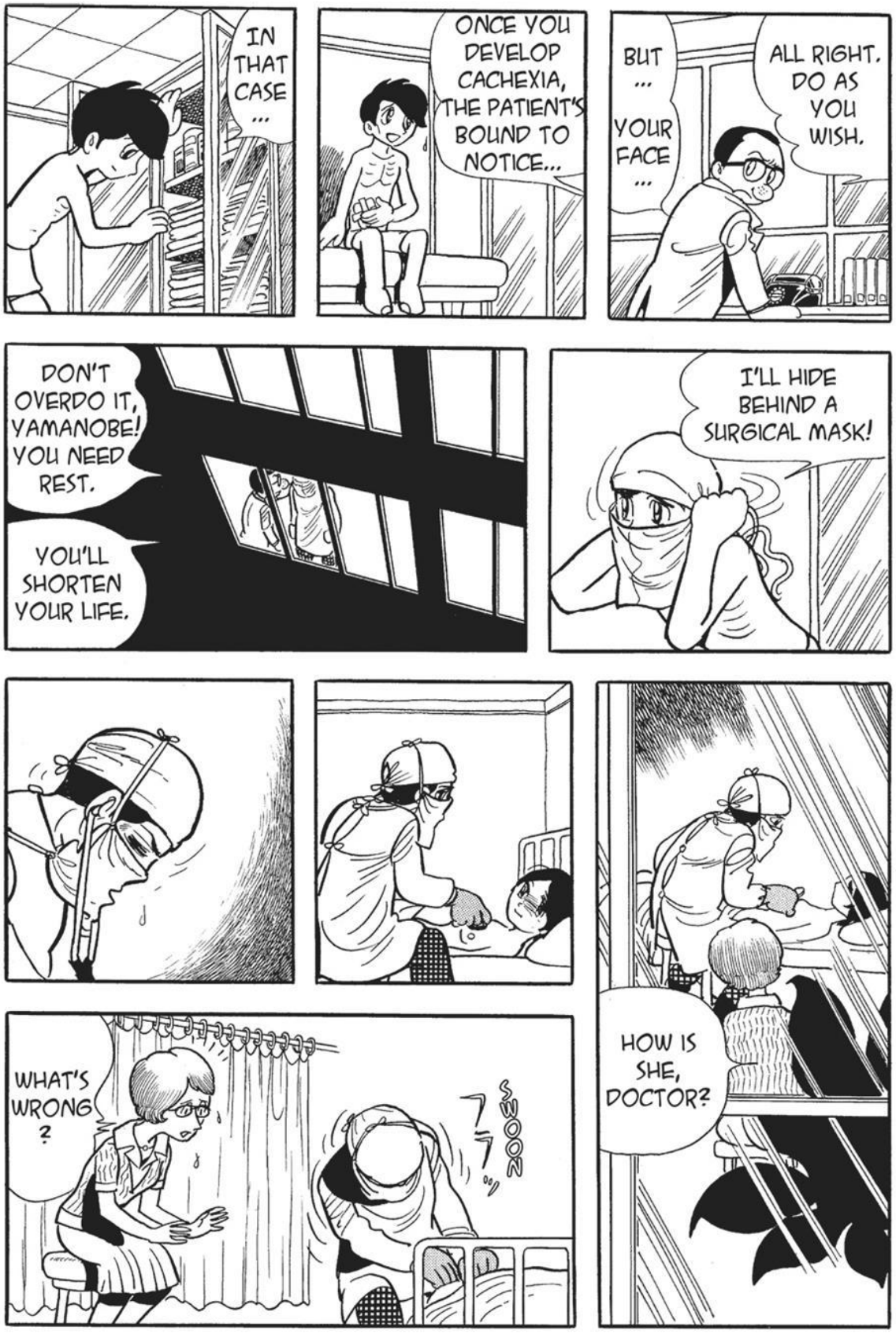

EVEN IF YOUR CONDITION GETS WORSE ?
IT'S BEEN MY LIFE'S DESIRE TO BECOME A DOCTOR AND CURE AT LEAST ONE CANCER PATIENT.
DOCTOR... I WON'T LIVE TILL THE END OF THE YEAR, WILL I?
IT'S CANCER, ISN'T IT, DOCTOR?
CANCER OF THE PANCREATIC BODY. YES?
YOU'VE BEEN CALLING IT CHRONIC PERITONITIS, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN DIAGNOSE MYSELF.


IN MY CASE, THE CANCER CELLS SCATTERED TO MY PERITONEUM. IT'S TOO LATE, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW THAT PANCREATIC CANCER IS EASY TO DETECT BECAUSE IT CAUSES JAUNDICE. BUT IN THE PANCREATIC BODY, IT CAN PROGRESS BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES.
Liver
Pancreatic head
Pancreatic body
Duodenum
Peritoneum


BEFORE I GO, JUST ONCE, I WANT TO CURE A CANCER PATIENT WHO STILL HAS A CHANCE!


YOU KNEW?

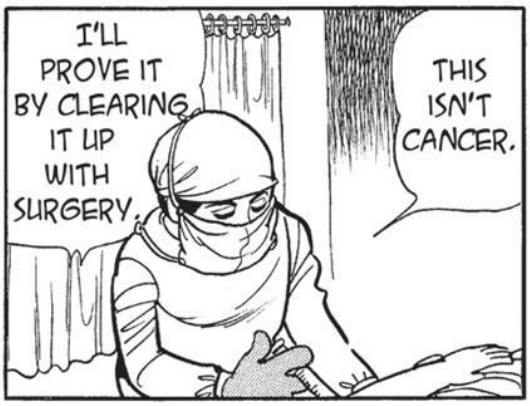
CANCER KILLED MY ENTIRE FAMILY, AND NOW IT'S KILLING ME!


IN THAT CASE ...
ONCE YOU DEVELOP CACHEXIA, THE PATIENT'S BOUND TO NOTICE...
BUT ... YOUR FACE ...
ALL RIGHT. DO AS YOU WISH.
DON'T OVERDO IT, YAMANOBE! YOU NEED REST.
YOU'LL SHORTEN YOUR LIFE.
I'LL HIDE BEHIND A SURGICAL MASK!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
SOOS
HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR?

HA HA... OF COURSE NOT.
DOCTOR... IT'S CANCER, ISN'T IT?

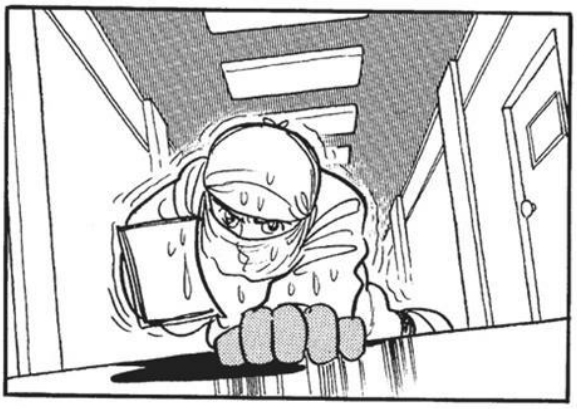
ABOUT HER HEPATITIS. WE HAVE TO REMOVE PART OF HER LIVER.
JUST UNDER-RESTED!
NOTHING ...

WE'D BETTER GO AHEAD WITH IT TOMORROW.

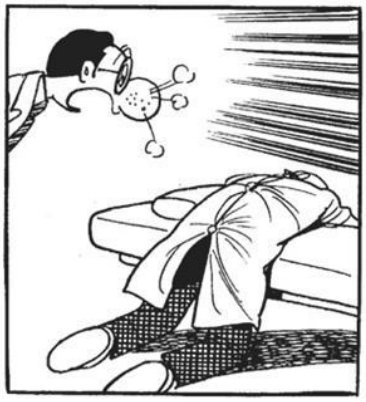

I'LL PROVE IT BY CLEARING IT UP WITH SURGERY.
THIS ISN'T CANCER.

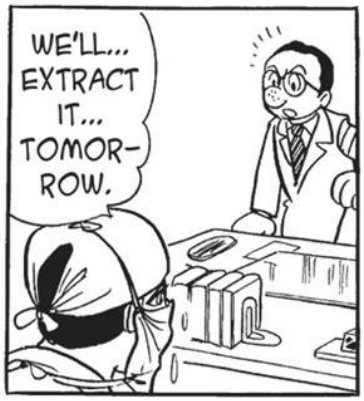
SLUMP

NGG ...



UGH ...

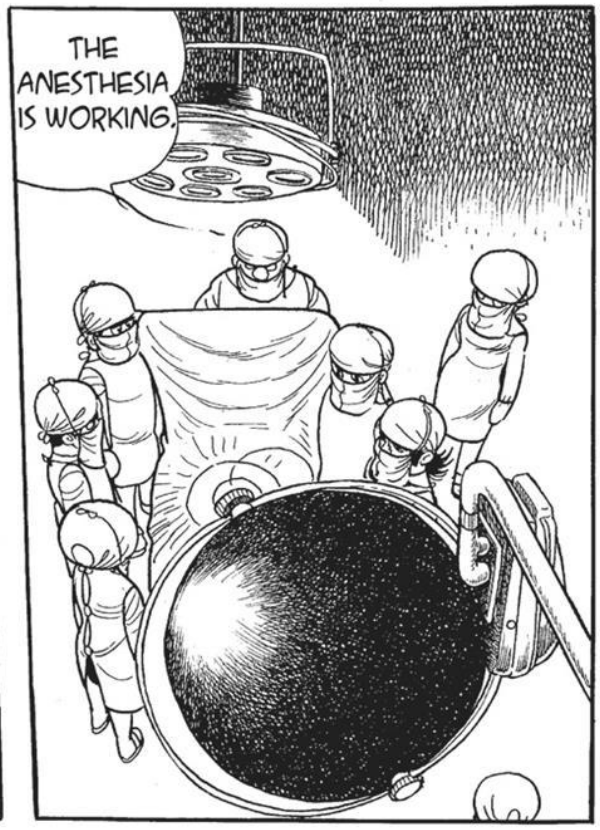



WE'LL... EXTRACT IT... TOMOR-ROW.

D-D... DOCTOR...

LET'S DO THIS, DOCTOR.

OH !


THE ANESTHESIA IS WORKING.

I WAS ASKED TO COME IN AND ASSIST YOU.
WHY, DOCTOR BLACK JACK, IT'S YOU!

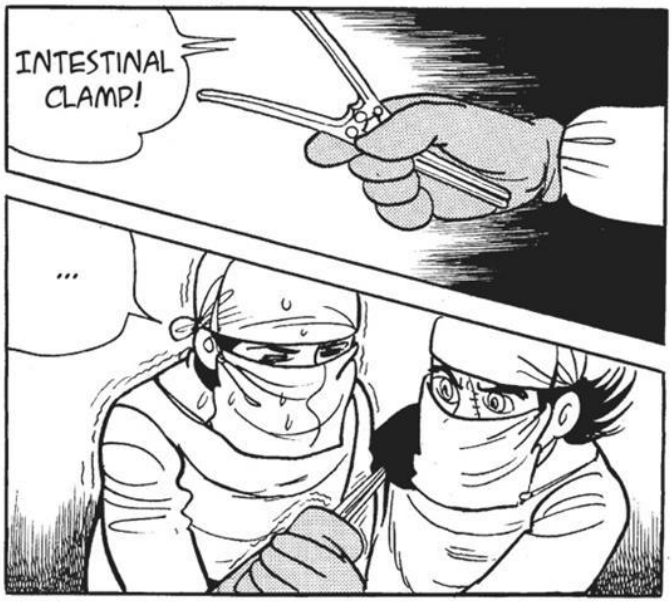
HEY, THE ANESTHETIC'S WORKING. BETTER GET TO IT.

I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!

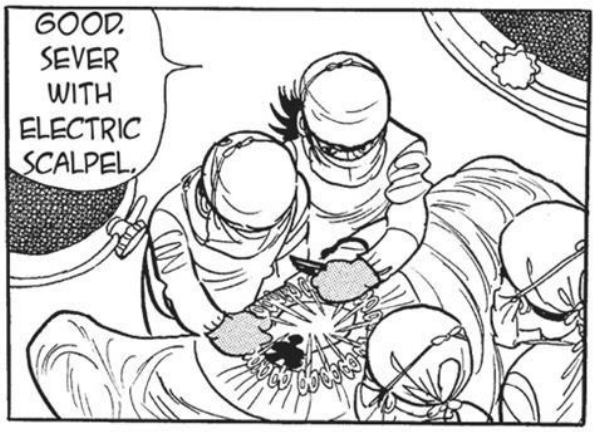
HERE!

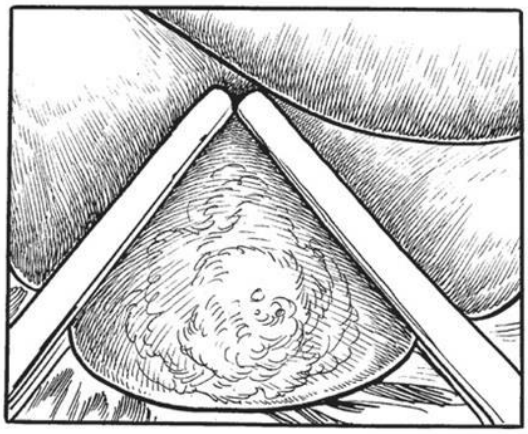
INCISE UPPER ABDO-MEN AT MIDLINE.

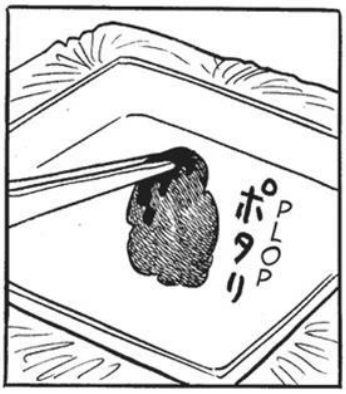
I... I KNOW.


INTESTINAL CLAMP!
...

COME ON, THE LIVER! THAT'S NOT WHERE.


GOOD. SEVER WITH ELECTRIC SCALPEL.

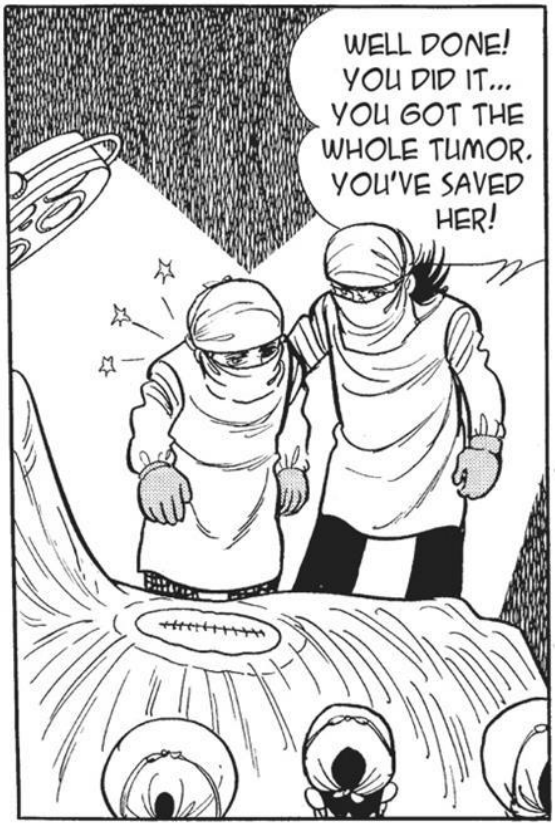



PLOP
ポタリ

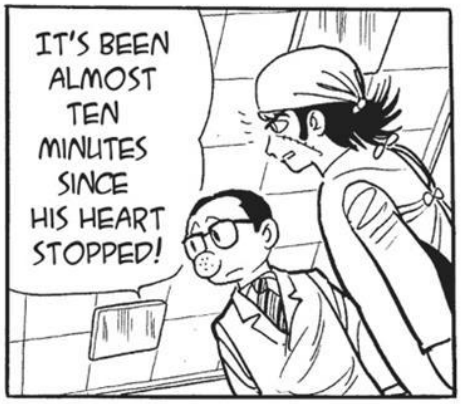
YES. THAT PART.

WOBBLE
グラ

THUD


WELL DONE! YOU DID IT... YOU GOT THE WHOLE TUMOR. YOU'VE SAVED HER!

HE'S DEAD!


IT'S BEEN ALMOST TEN MINUTES SINCE HIS HEART STOPPED!

IT'S STRANGE ...

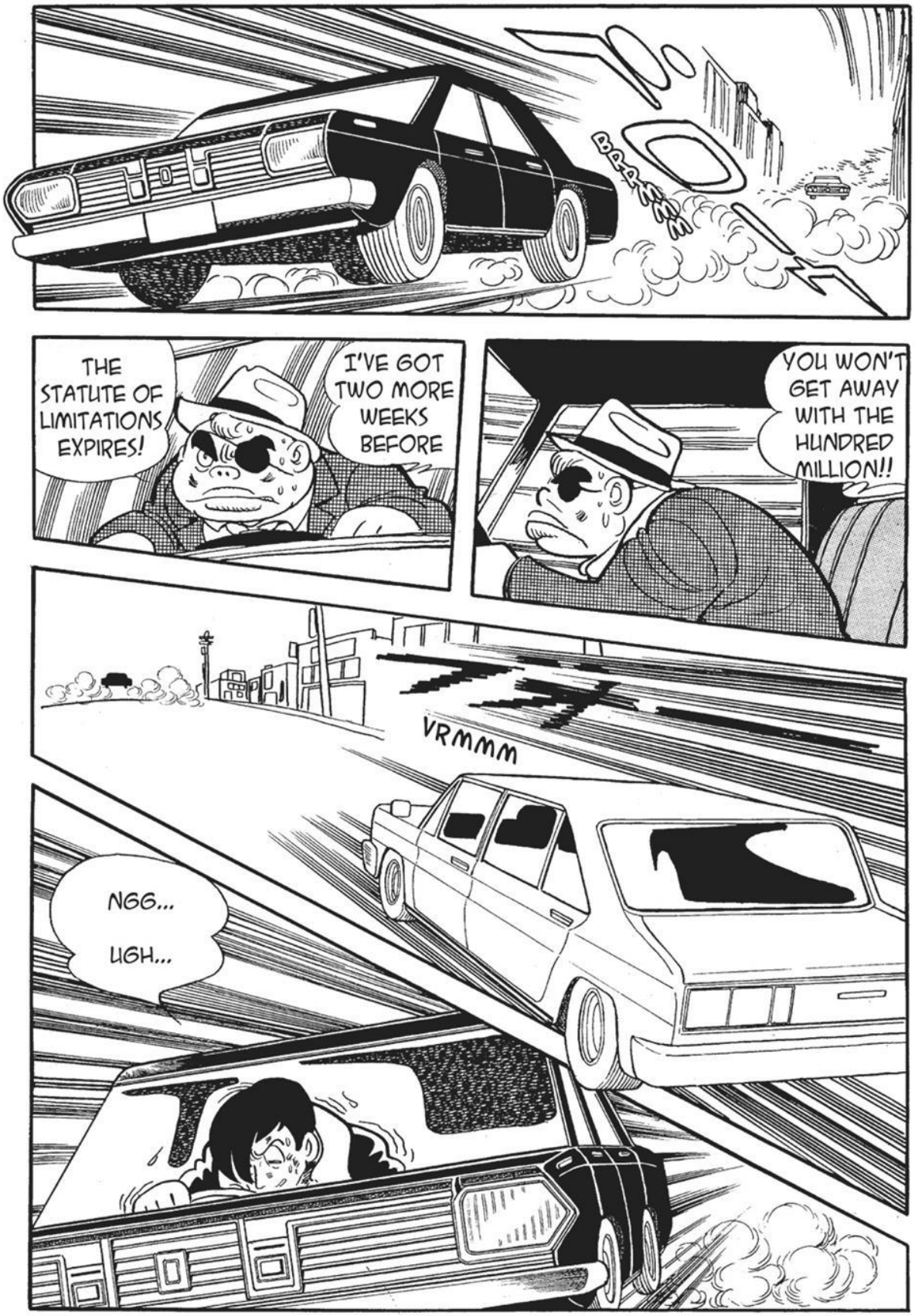
WOW.

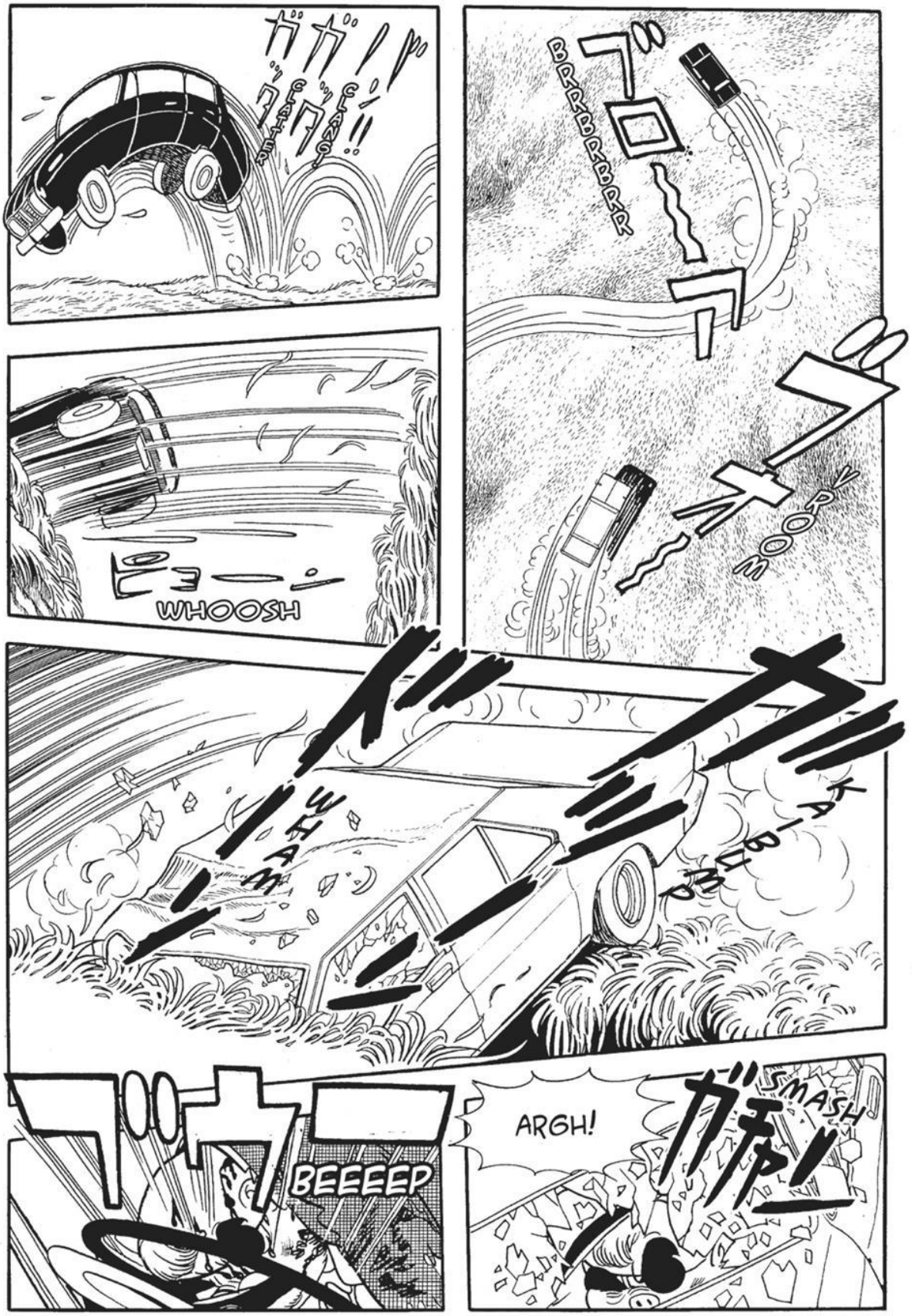
I'M SURE HE'S BRAGGING TO HIS FAMILY RIGHT NOW.

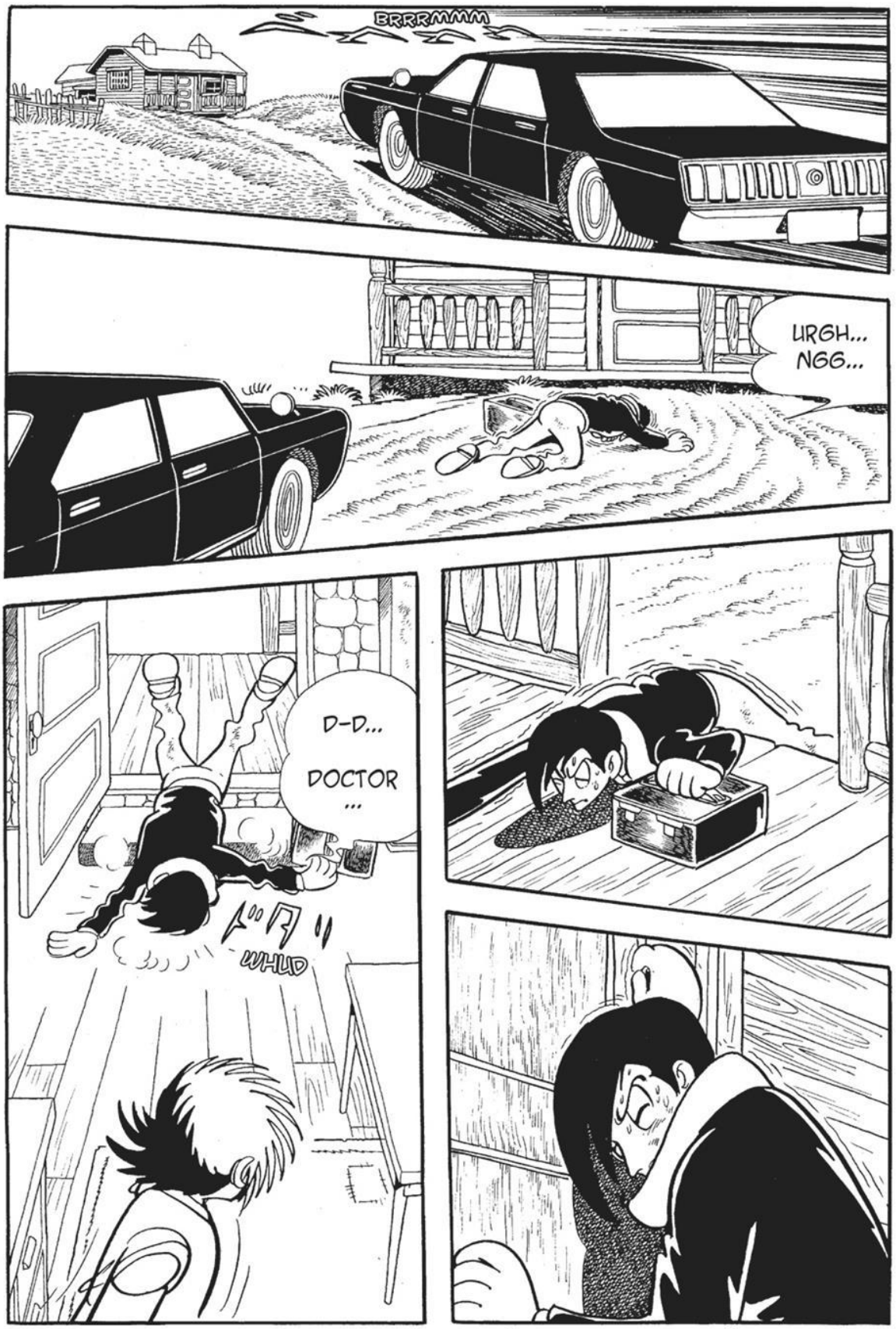
TEN MINUTES? YOU MEAN HE DIED WHILE HE WAS OPERATING?!
EVIDENTLY SO...

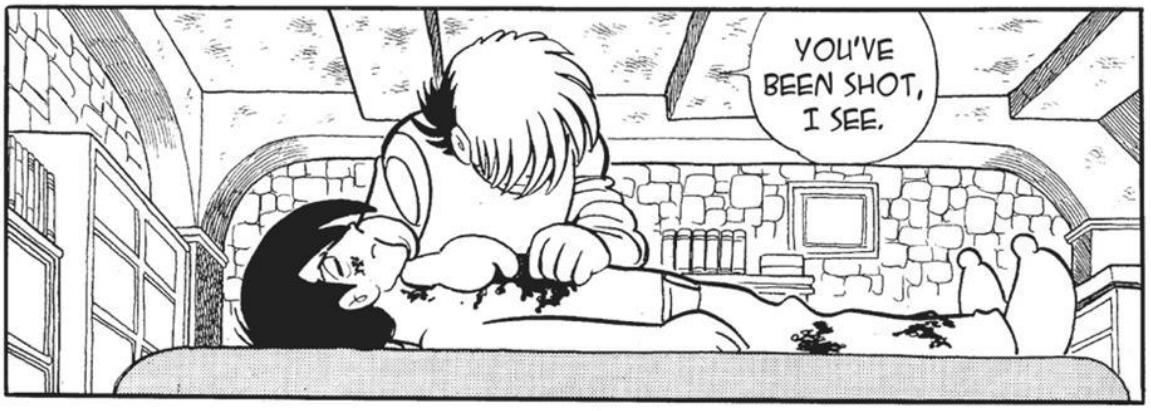
I SUPPOSE HE DIDN'T LET DEATH STOP HIM ...

AN ODD RELATIONSHIP


BRRRRRRRRRR
THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPIRES!
I'VE GOT TWO MORE WEEKS BEFORE
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THE HUNDRED MILLION!!
VRMMM
NGG...
UGH...


ガガ!!
BRRRRRRRR
WHOOSH
WHAM
KA-BUM
BEEEEP
ARGH!
SMASH


BRRRMMM
URGH...
NGG...
D-D...
DOCTOR
...
WHUD


YOU'VE BEEN SHOT, I SEE.

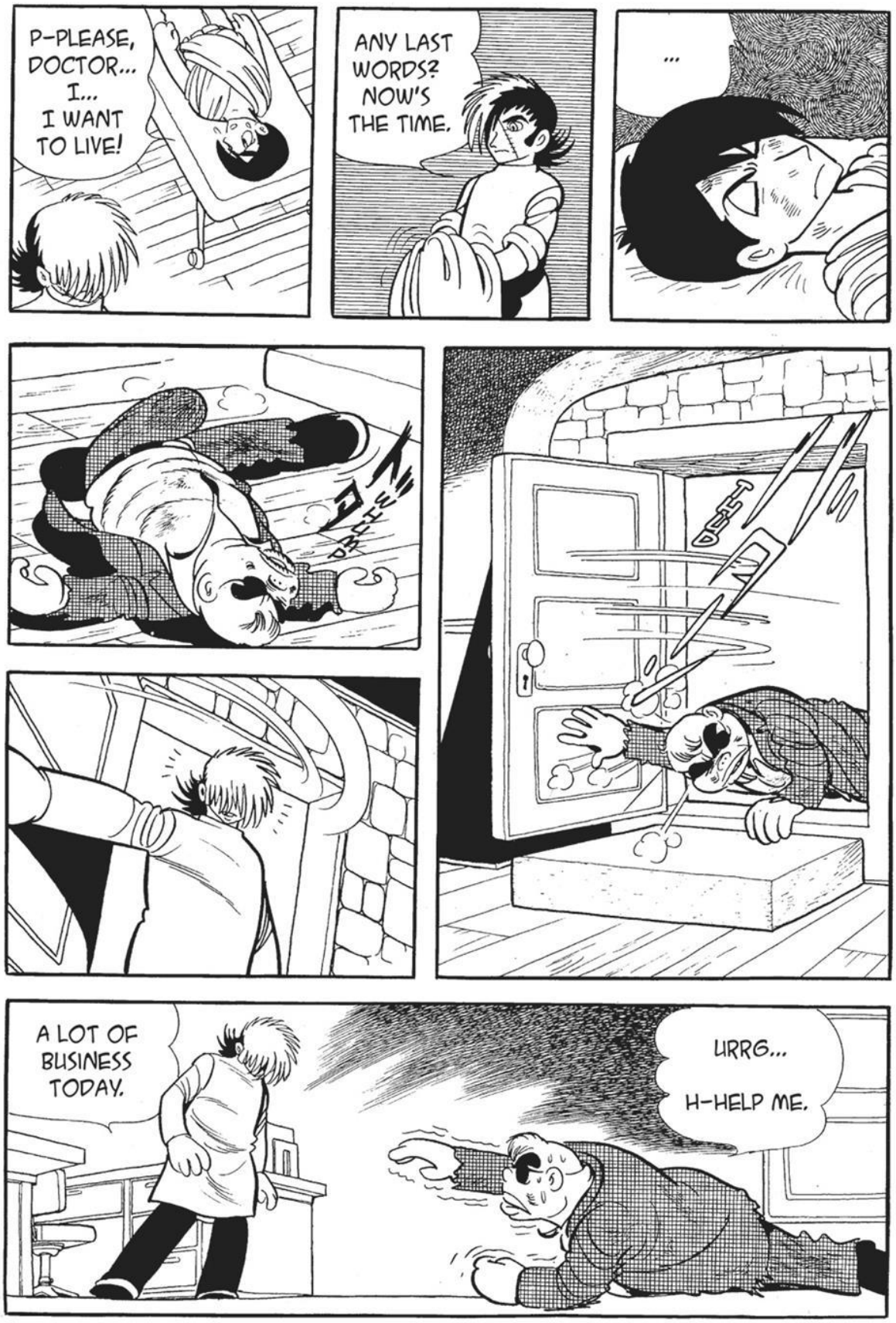
THAT'S A LOT OF STRAY BULLETS!
ALL FIVE TIMES?

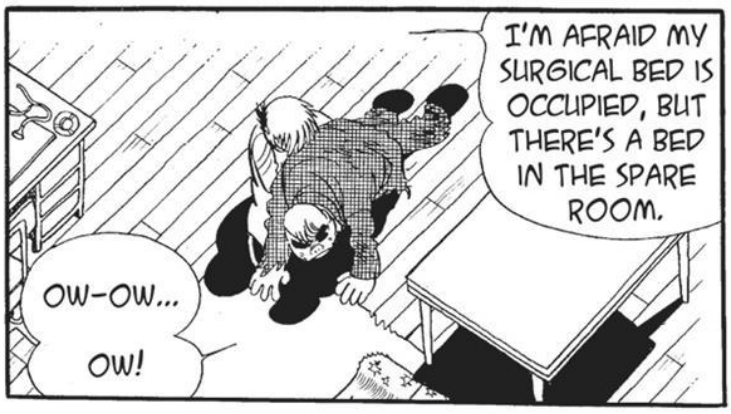
IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT...
YES, DOC-TOR...

THREE RIBS BLOWN AWAY, A PUNCTURED RIGHT LUNG, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A GOUGED-OUT DUODENUM AND LIVER.
BUT THERE'S A PRESSING ISSUE...

WITHOUT A QUICK ORGAN TRANSPLANT, YOU'RE A GONER.

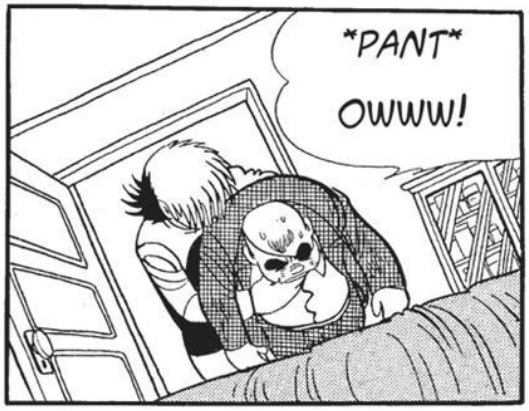
I WON'T FORCE YOU TO EXPLAIN. IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR TREATMENT, ANYWAY.
WELL, SINCE YOU'VE COME TO ME FOR HELP...


P-PLEASE, DOCTOR... I... I WANT TO LIVE!
ANY LAST WORDS? NOW'S THE TIME.
...
DRUTT
A LOT OF BUSINESS TODAY.
URRG...
H-HELP ME.


I'M AFRAID MY SURGICAL BED IS OCCUPIED, BUT THERE'S A BED IN THE SPARE ROOM.
OW-OW...
OW!

AH, A CAR CRASH.
HRGH ...

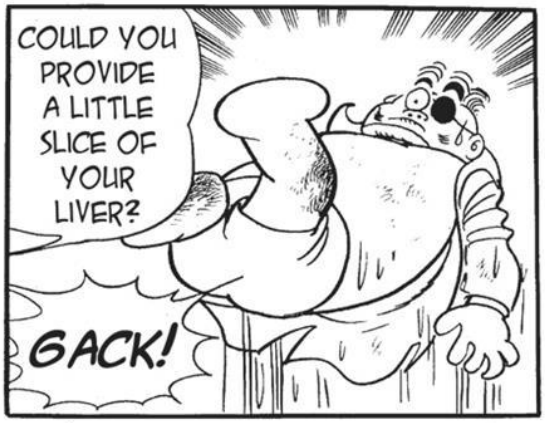
COMPOUND FRACTURES IN BOTH LEGS. HEY, GOOD CRAWLING!

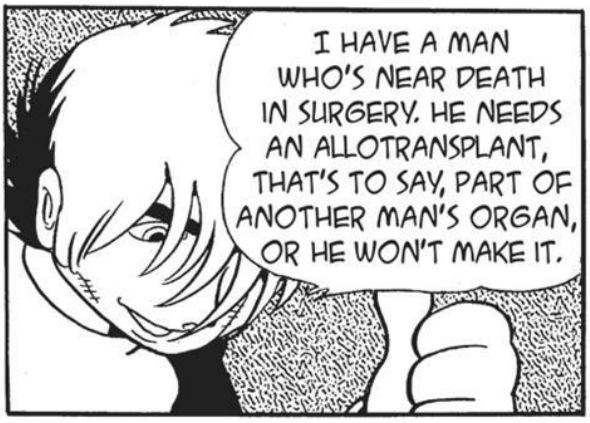

PANT
OWWW!

MEANWHILE, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.

IT'LL TAKE TIME, BUT YOU'LL BE FINE.

THIS IS NO BIG DEAL.


COULD YOU PROVIDE A LITTLE SLICE OF YOUR LIVER?
GACK!


I HAVE A MAN WHO'S NEAR DEATH IN SURGERY. HE NEEDS AN ALLOTRANSPLANT, THAT'S TO SAY, PART OF ANOTHER MAN'S ORGAN, OR HE WON'T MAKE IT.

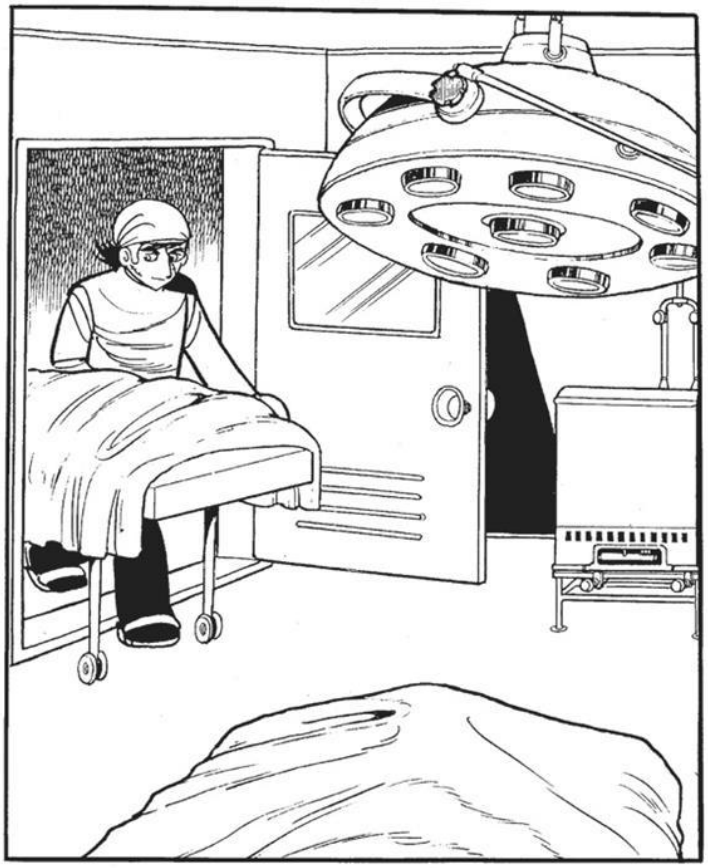
NORMALLY I'D CHARGE 10 MILLION YEN, SO IT'S A REAL BARGAIN. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IF YOU AGREE, I'LL WAIVE YOUR FEE.
I SAY NO!
YOU CAN'T TAKE MY LIVER! I'LL DIE!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING.
YOUR LIFE'S IN NO DANGER.
BUT HIS IS. IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER HE LIVES OR DIES.
A-ARE YOU BLACKMAILING ME?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE. GO SEE ANOTHER SURGEON.
IN THAT CASE,
OKAY, FINE THEN... DO AS YOU WISH.

FINE, FINE. NOW GO TO SLEEP.

I'M A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE. I'LL HAVE YOU PROSECUTED FOR THIS, YOU KNOW!

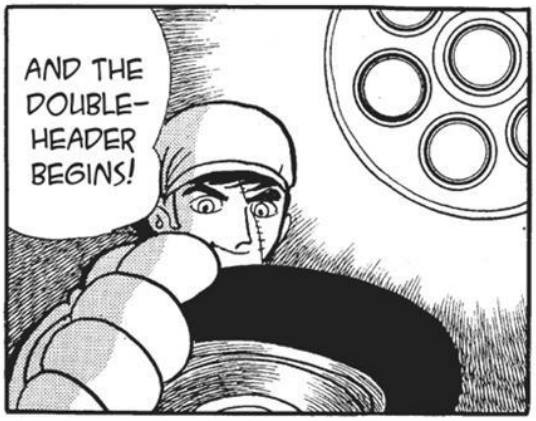
I'LL PUT YOU UNDER RIGHT NOW.
GOOD ...

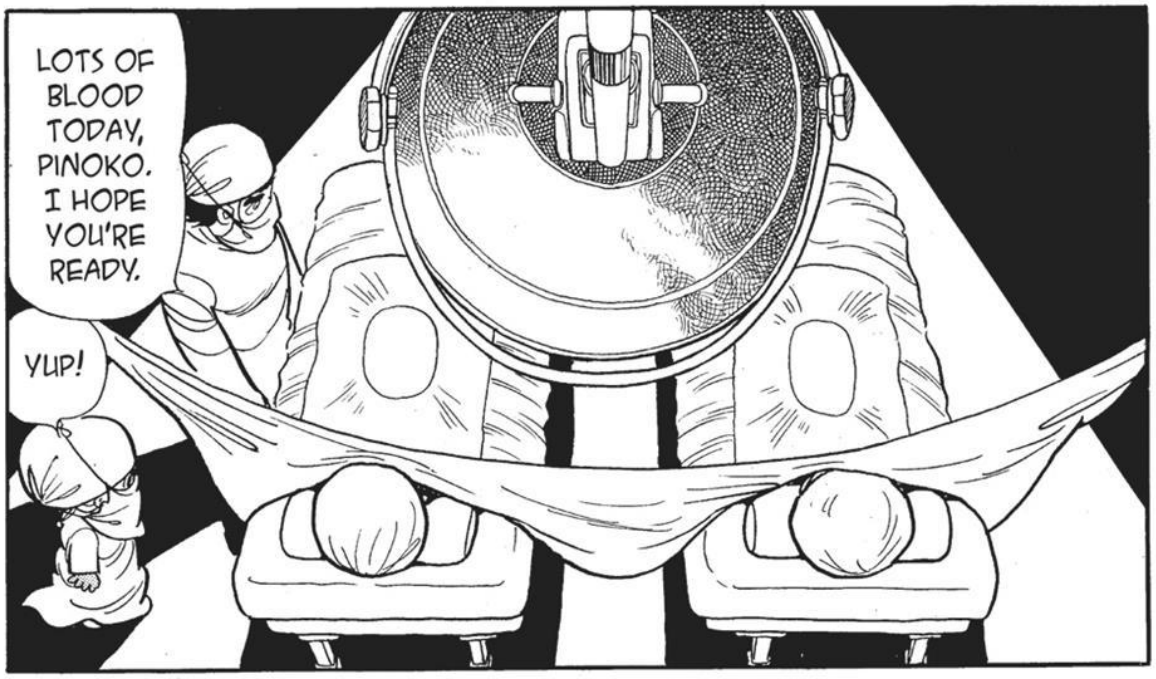
A VERY KIND MAN HAS COME FORTH TO BE YOUR DONOR.



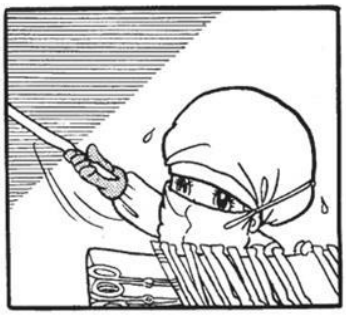
PINOKO!
AYE AYE !

SHE'S 20 AND A GIFTED DOCTOR!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? TWO AT ONCE? AND, UH, YOUR ASSISTANT IS A CHILD...


AND THE DOUBLE-HEADER BEGINS!


LOTS OF BLOOD TODAY, PINOKO. I HOPE YOU'RE READY.
YUP!

SHK

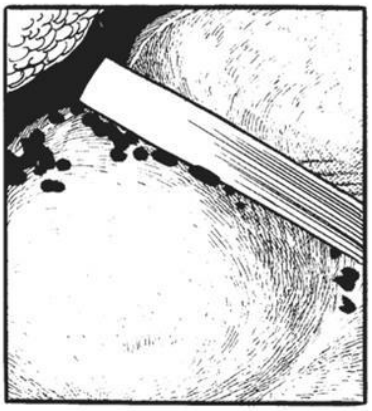


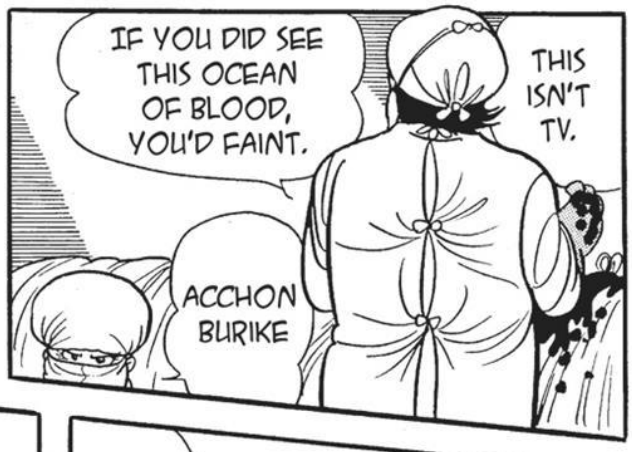
SCAL-PEL!

INTES-TINAL CLAMP!

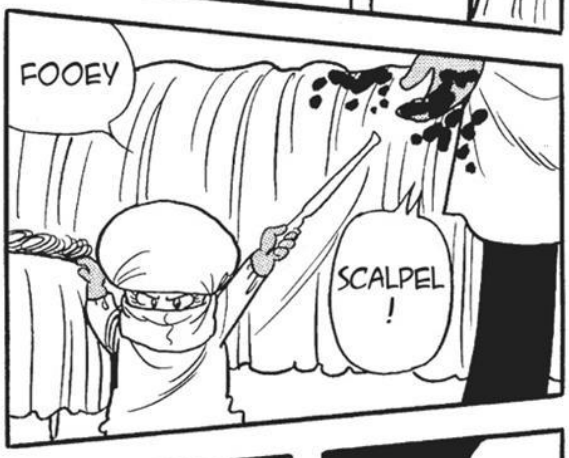
IF YOU'D MADE ME JUSHT A BIT TALLER, I COULD SHEE WHERE YOU'RE CUTTING...

ELECTRIC SCALPEL!




IF YOU DID SEE THIS OCEAN OF BLOOD, YOU'D FAINT.
THIS ISN'T TV.
ACCHON BURIKE

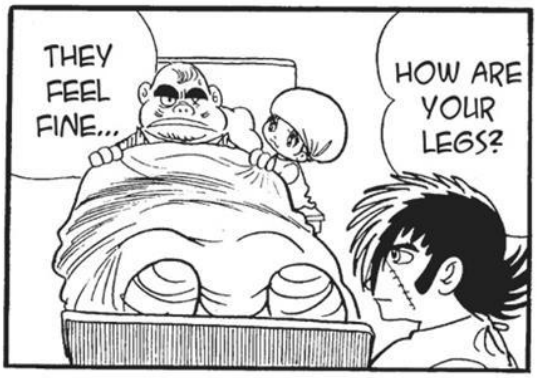
GOOD JOB.
SUTURE NEEDLE... YES, THE CIRCULAR ONE.


FOOEY
SCALPEL!

KÜNTZEL. DON'T MAKE ME WAIT.

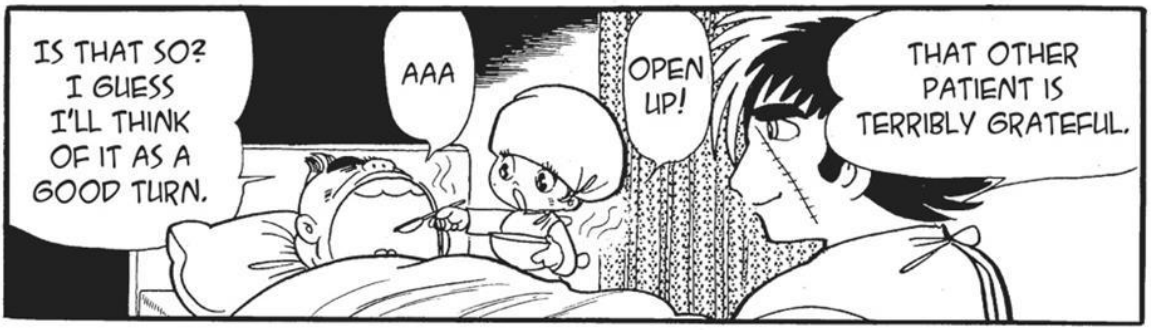
NOW I'LL SET THOSE BONES.
FAR FROM IT.

ARE YOU DONE?

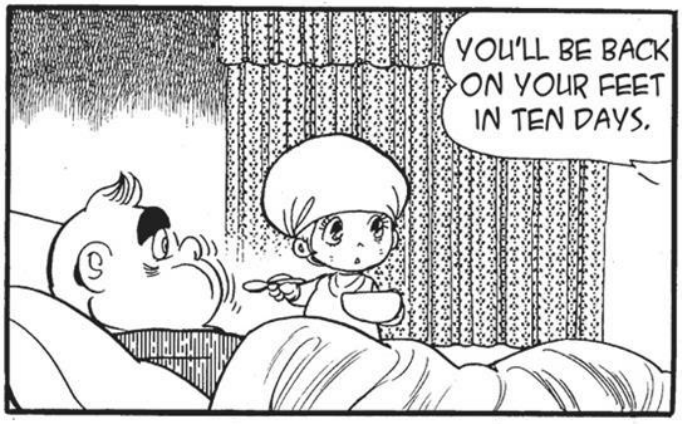

THEY FEEL FINE...
HOW ARE YOUR LEGS?

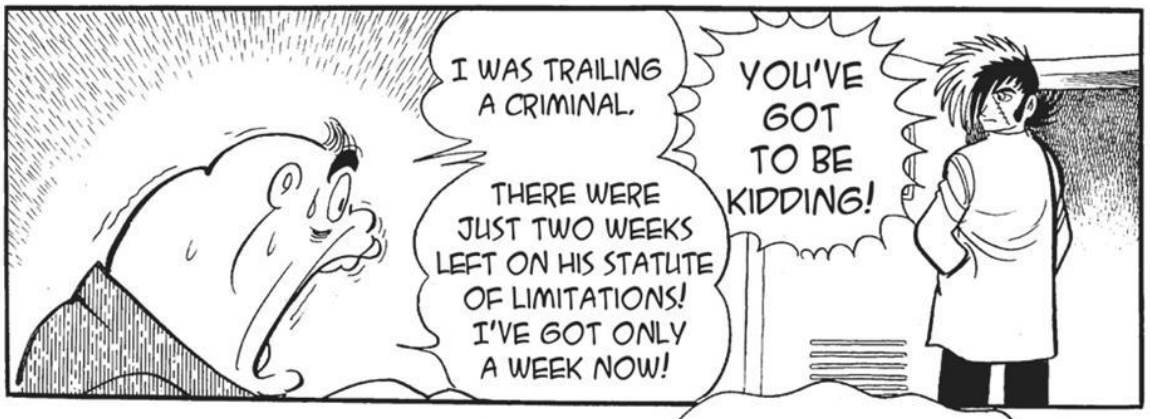
ONE WEEK LATER ...

BUT DIDN'T YOU CHOP SOME ORGAN TO GIVE TO THE OTHER PATIENT? WILL I BE OKAY? NO LONG-TERM PROBLEMS?
HA HA, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.


IS THAT SO? I GUESS I'LL THINK OF IT AS A GOOD TURN.
AAA
OPEN UP!
THAT OTHER PATIENT IS TERRIBLY GRATEFUL.

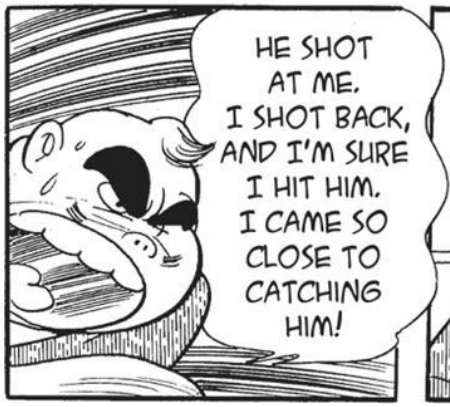
TEN DAYS ?!


YOU'LL BE BACK ON YOUR FEET IN TEN DAYS.


I WAS TRAILING A CRIMINAL.
THERE WERE JUST TWO WEEKS LEFT ON HIS STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS! I'VE GOT ONLY A WEEK NOW!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

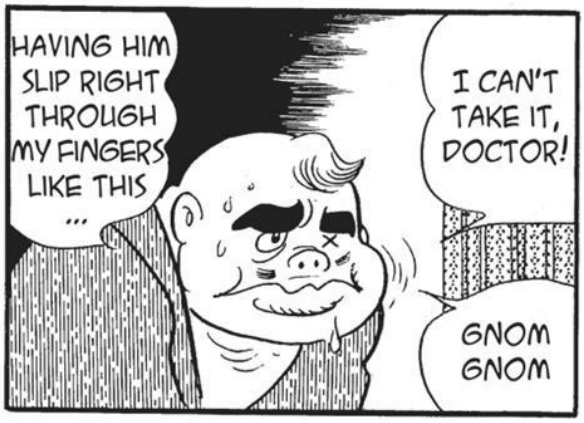
IF YOU KEEP TALKING, YOUR POWWIDGE WILL GET COLD!
OM GNOM GNOM GNOM

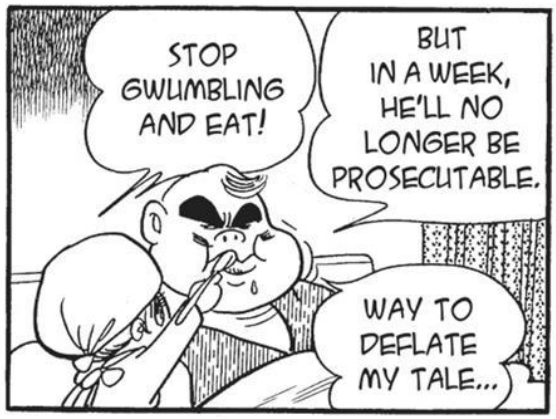
DOCTOR, THAT SCUMBAG ROBBED A BANK SEVEN YEARS AGO AND STOLE 100 MILLION YEN.
OPEN UP!

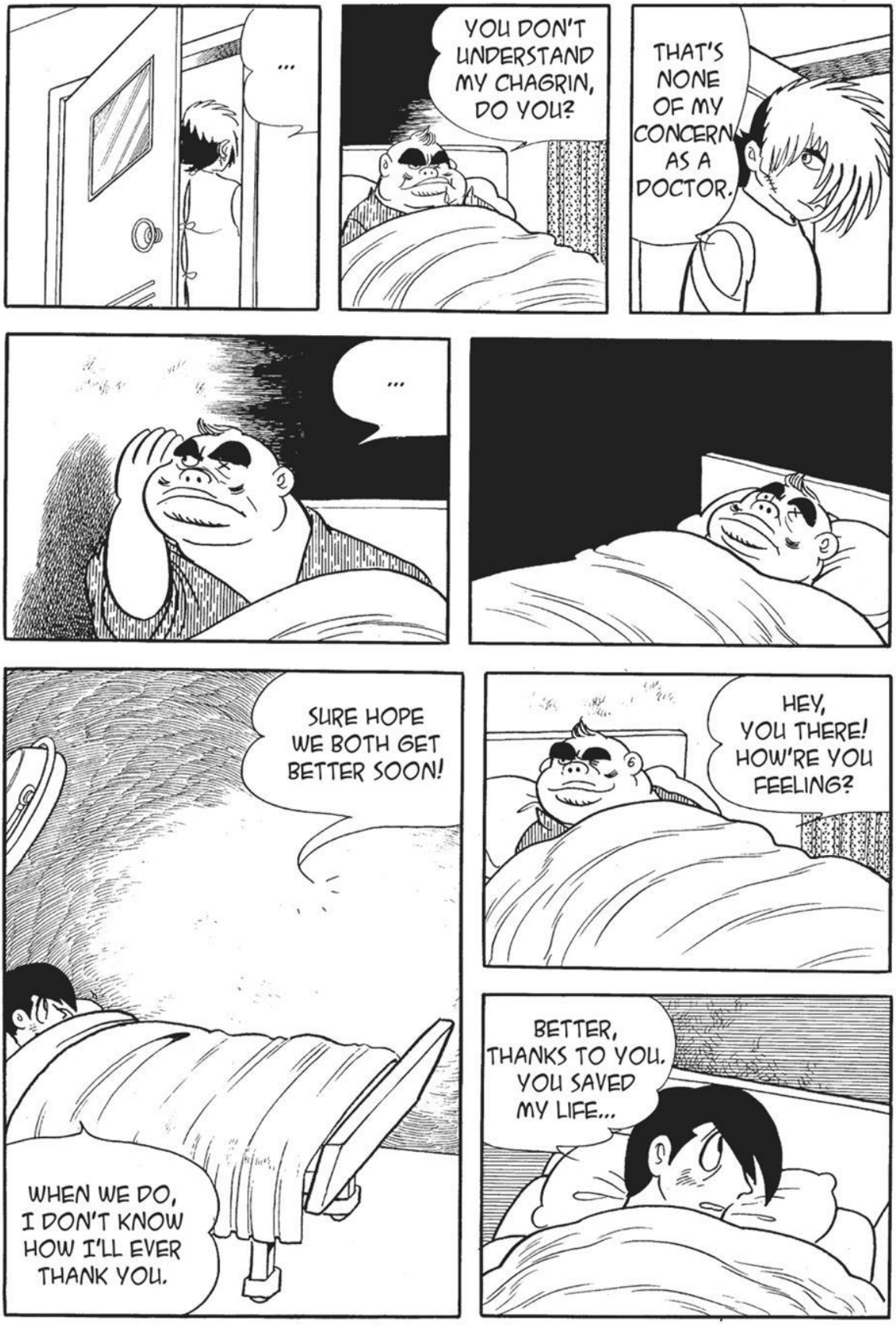

HE SHOT AT ME. I SHOT BACK, AND I'M SURE I HIT HIM. I CAME SO CLOSE TO CATCHING HIM!

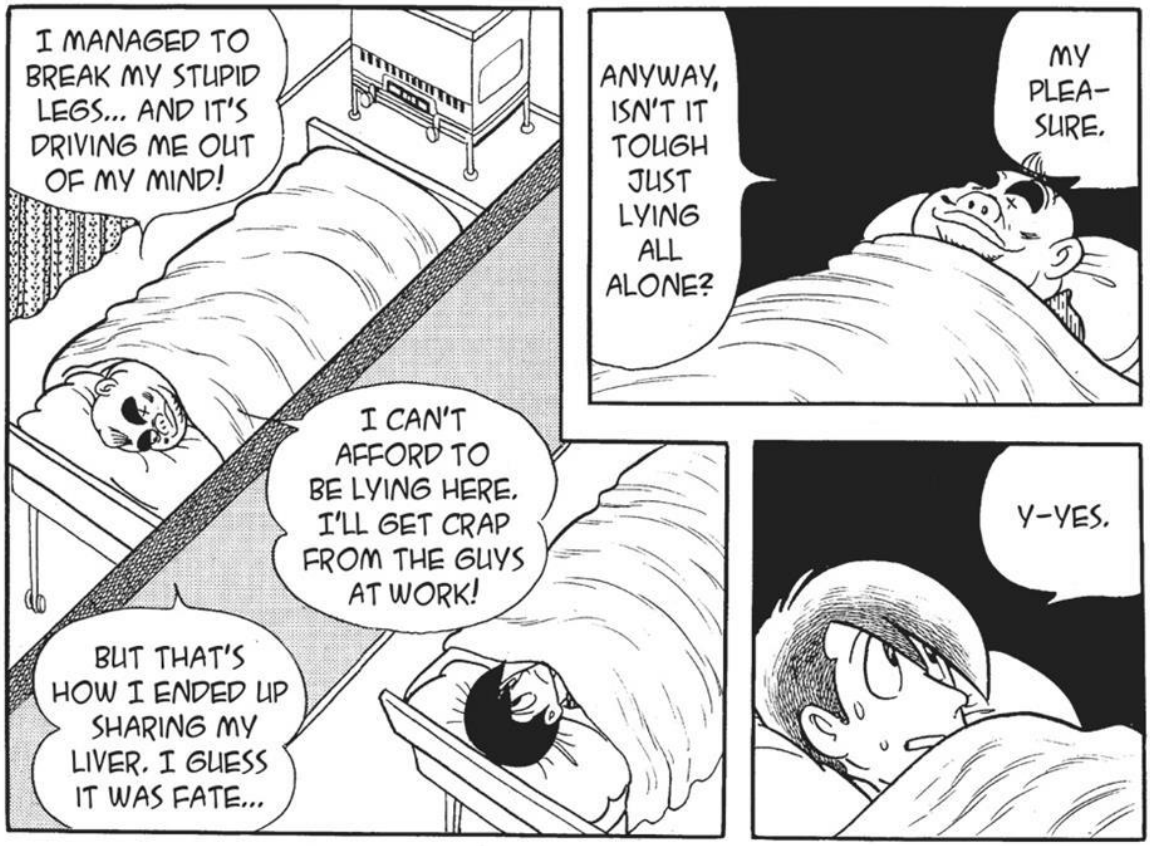
OMMM GNOM GNOM GNOM

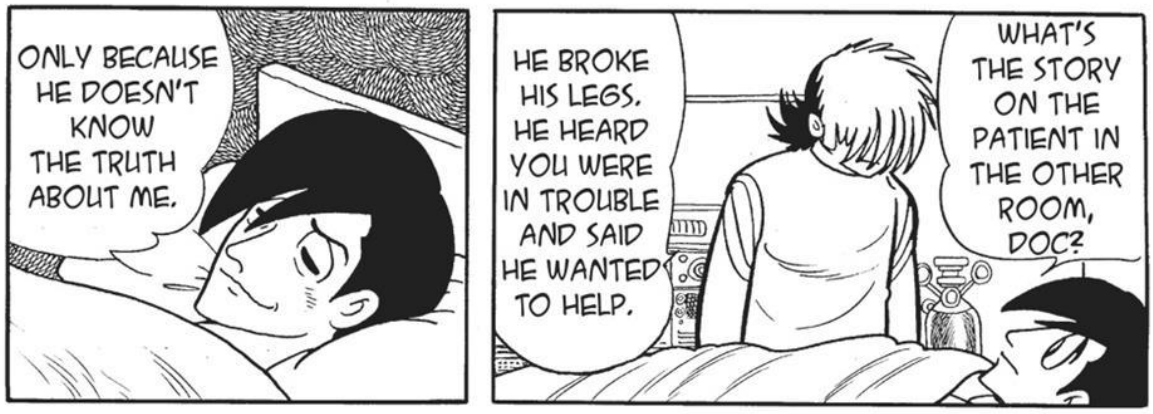
OPEN UP!
I TRACKED HIM FOR YEARS.
I WAS FINALLY ON HIS TAIL!


HAVING HIM SLIP RIGHT THROUGH MY FINGERS LIKE THIS ...
I CAN'T TAKE IT, DOCTOR!
GNOM GNOM


STOP GWUMBLING AND EAT!
BUT IN A WEEK, HE'LL NO LONGER BE PROSECUTABLE.
WAY TO DEFLATE MY TALE...


...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY CHAGRIN, DO YOU?
THAT'S NONE OF MY CONCERN AS A DOCTOR.
...
SURE HOPE WE BOTH GET BETTER SOON!
WHEN WE DO, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER THANK YOU.
HEY, YOU THERE! HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
BETTER, THANKS TO YOU. YOU SAVED MY LIFE...


I MANAGED TO BREAK MY STUPID LEGS... AND IT'S DRIVING ME OUT OF MY MIND!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE LYING HERE. I'LL GET CRAP FROM THE GUYS AT WORK!
BUT THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP SHARING MY LIVER. I GUESS IT WAS FATE...
ANYWAY, ISN'T IT TOUGH JUST LYING ALL ALONE?
MY PLEA-SURE.
Y-YES.


ONLY BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.
HE BROKE HIS LEGS. HE HEARD YOU WERE IN TROUBLE AND SAID HE WANTED TO HELP.
WHAT'S THE STORY ON THE PATIENT IN THE OTHER ROOM, DOC?

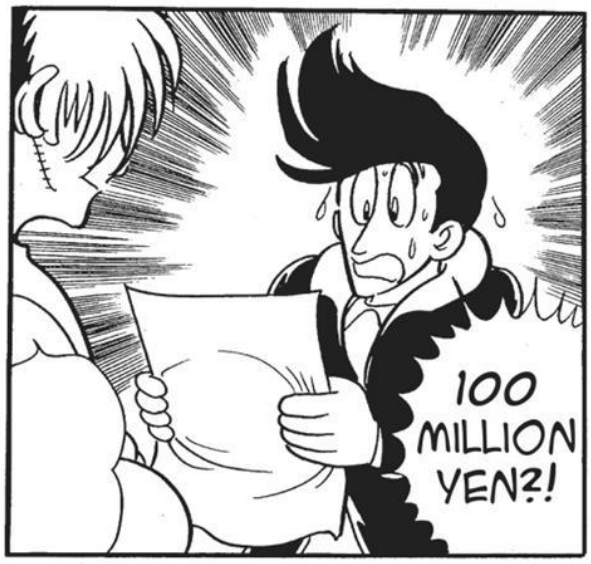
I ROBBED A BANK FOR A HUNDRED MILLION.
SEVEN YEARS AGO!
I CAN'T LIE TO YOU, DOC...
OH?

IT'S NOT EVEN A CRIME NOW! HA HA HA!
OW!
THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS JUST EXPIRED!
DON'T EVEN TRY TO RAT ME OUT TO THE COPS, DOC ...
BUT I GET SO RESTLESS JUST LYING HERE...
DON'T TALK TO THE OTHER PATIENT TOO MUCH.
WHAT'S WRONG ?
IT'S MY WOUND. THE THROB-BING.
HE'S IN PAIN!
DOC-TOR!
ARGH... NGG...
THAT DOCTOR'S SKILLS ARE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
WAIT. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

PLEASE, DON'T LET HIM DIE...
MY DEED WOULD GO TO WASTE.
...
YOU'LL REOPEN YOUR WOUND!
DON'T SHOUT !
OH, IS THAT SO?
HIM? I'LL DIS-CHARGE HIM TODAY.
YOU, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE TO STAY ON ANOTHER MONTH FOR REHABILITATION.
DOCTOR, WHEN'LL I BE READY TO GET OUT OF HERE?
THE PATIENT IN THE OTHER ROOM— HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE, IS HE?
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS!
AH. I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.
I'D DO ANYTHING IN MY POWER TO THANK YOU...
JUST NAME IT!
THANKS TO YOU, I GET TO GO HOME TODAY!

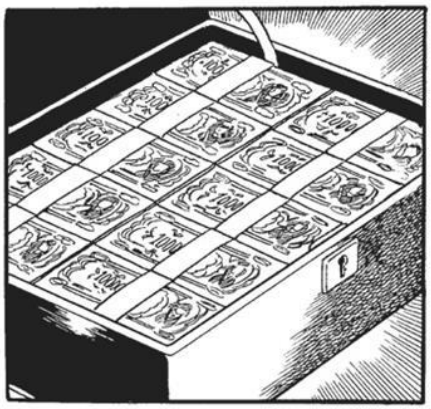
I'M A COP. I WAS WORKING ON A CASE...
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
PLEASE, JUST SAY THE WORD!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
WHILE I WAS LAID UP HERE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPIRED. IT'S STILL WEIGHING ON ME. WHATTA JOKE, EH?
...
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
YOU CAN'T SNEAK OFF WITHOUT PAYING ME.
HERE'S YOUR BILL ...
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING...

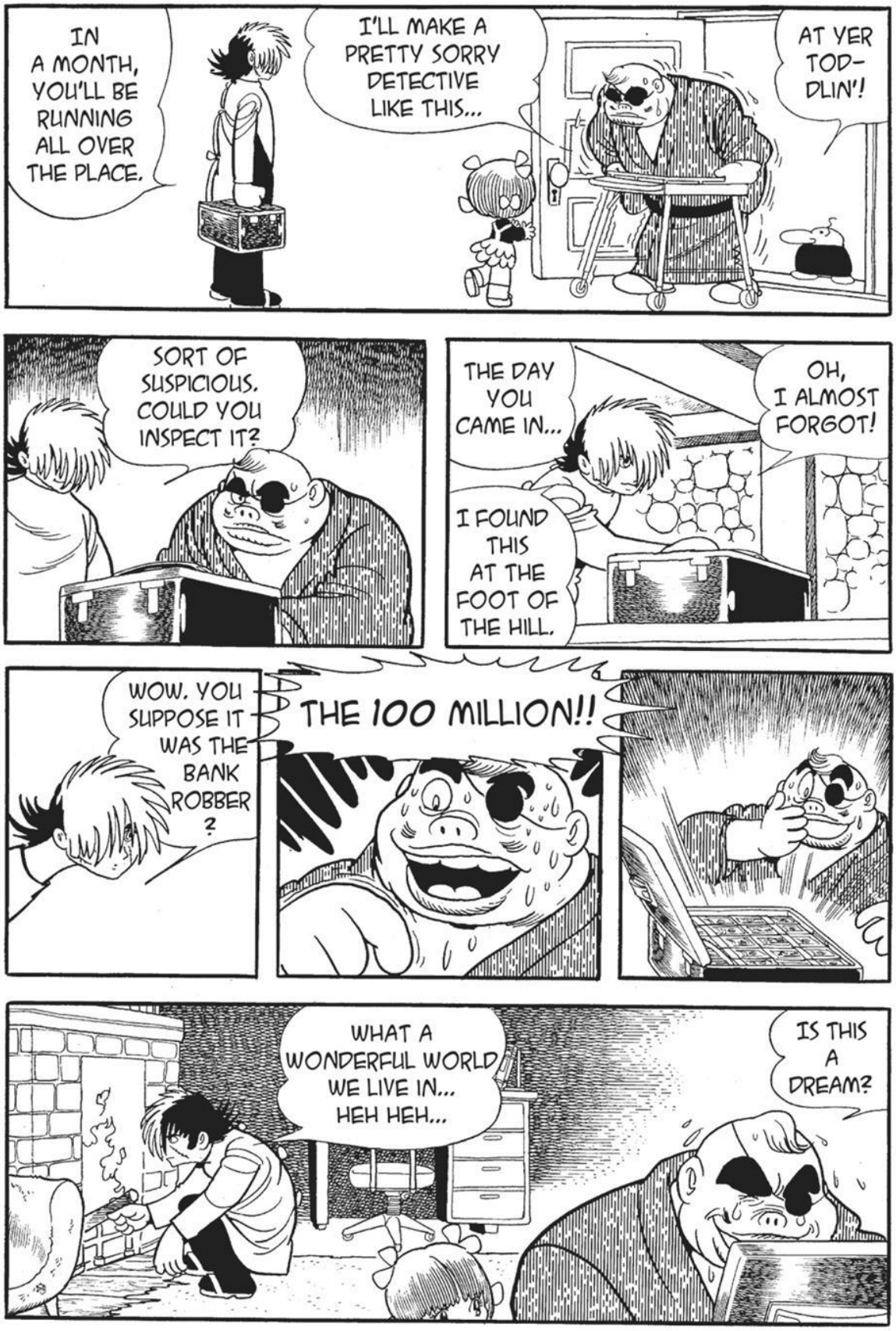
THAT'S HI-HIGHWAY ROBBERY! THAT'S OUT OF BOUNDS!
PERHAPS IT'S TOO LITTLE, CONSIDERING I SAVED YOUR LIFE.


100 MILLION YEN?!

IF YOU'D DIED, YOU COULDN'T EVEN HAVE TRIED TO SNEAK OFF!
%@#$!

CHEER UP! YOU'VE GOT MANY YEARS LEFT. TAKE CARE, NOW.

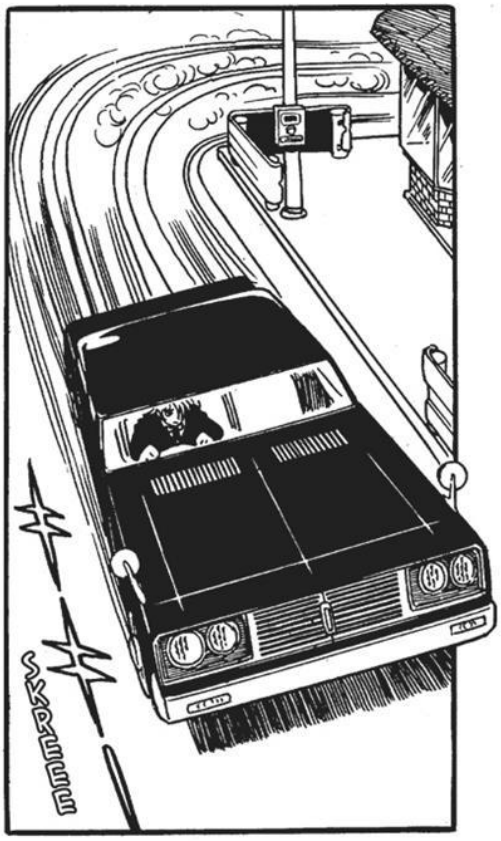


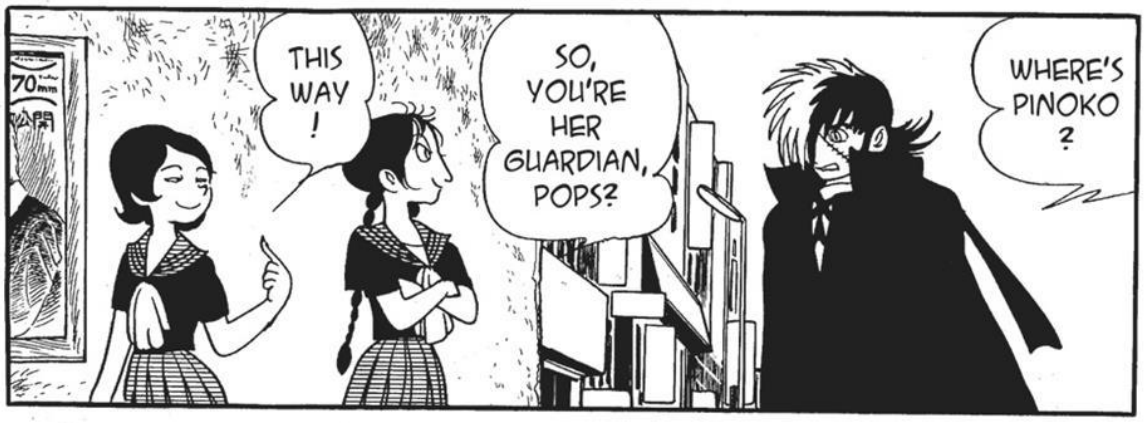

IN A MONTH, YOU'LL BE RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I'LL MAKE A PRETTY SORRY DETECTIVE LIKE THIS...
AT YER TOD-DLIN'!
SORT OF SUSPICIOUS. COULD YOU INSPECT IT?
THE DAY YOU CAME IN...
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
I FOUND THIS AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL.
WOW. YOU SUPPOSE IT WAS THE BANK ROBBER ?
THE 100 MILLION!!
WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD WE LIVE IN... HEH HEH...
IS THIS A DREAM?

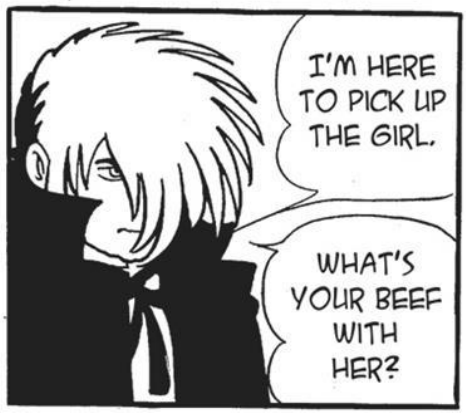
BABY BLUES

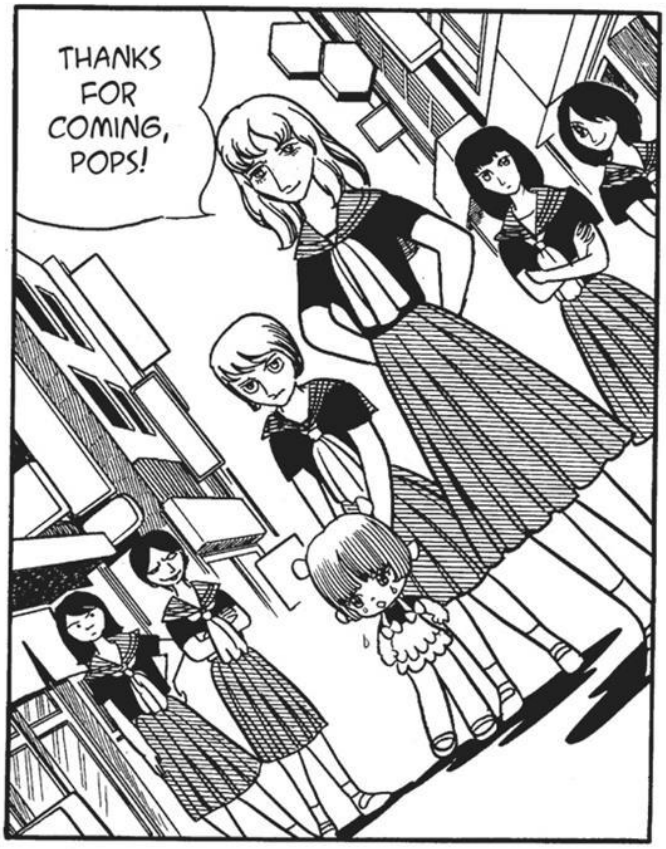
NOBODY NOTICES.
BEYOND REACH,
THE BABY'S LIFE IS
ABOUT TO FLICKER OUT...

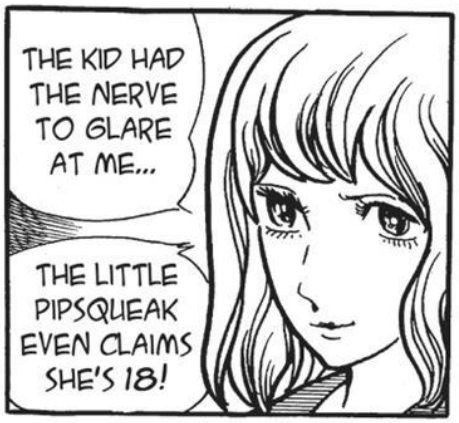
THIS BABY IS
DYING.




THIS WAY!
SO, YOU'RE HER GUARDIAN, POPS?
WHERE'S PINOKO?


I'M HERE TO PICK UP THE GIRL.
WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH HER?


THANKS FOR COMING, POPS!

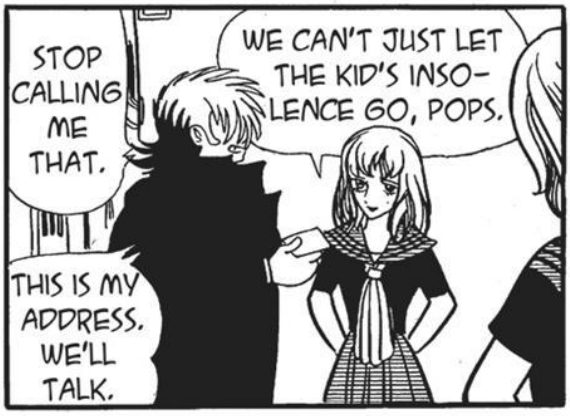

THE KID HAD THE NERVE TO GLARE AT ME...
THE LITTLE PIPSQUEAK EVEN CLAIMS SHE'S 18!

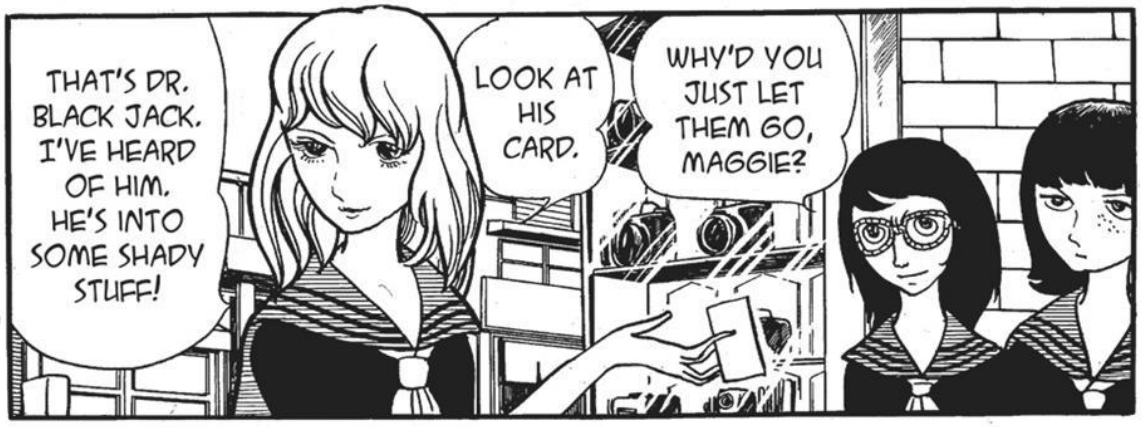
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALTZ AWAY?

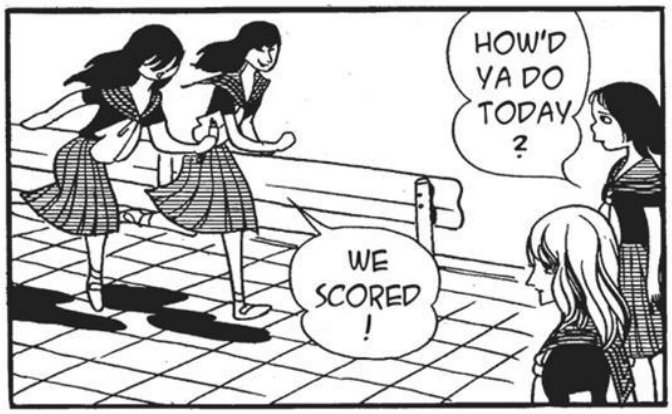
NEVER MIND, PINOKO. LET'S GO!

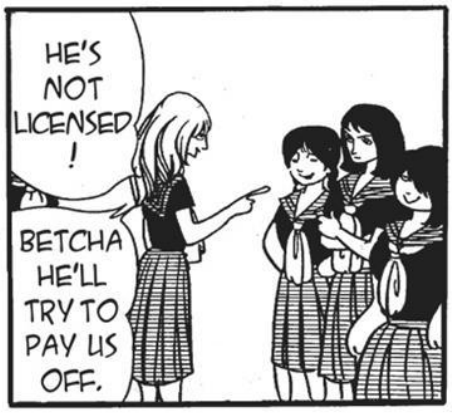
I WEALLY AM 18!

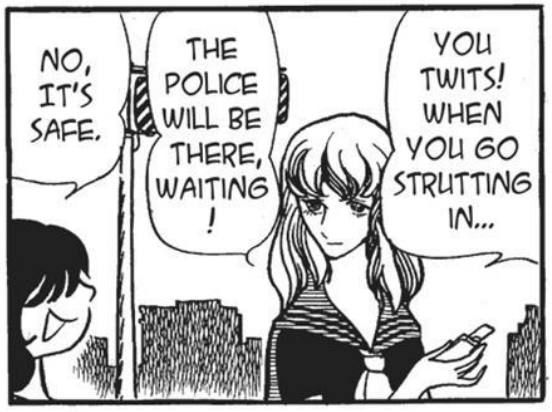
I SAID, DON'T CALL ME POPS!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT CALLING THE POLICE, POPS.

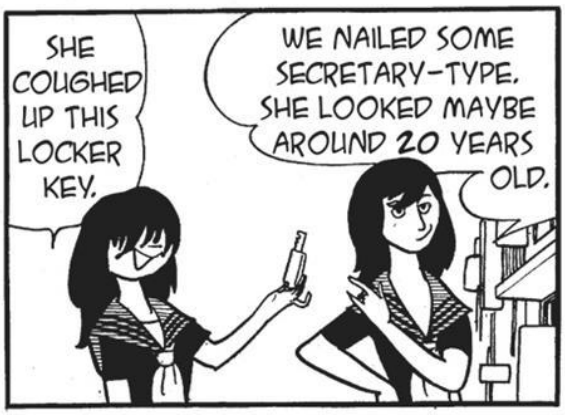

STOP CALLING ME THAT.
WE CAN'T JUST LET THE KID'S INSO-LENCE GO, POPS.
THIS IS MY ADDRESS. WE'LL TALK.

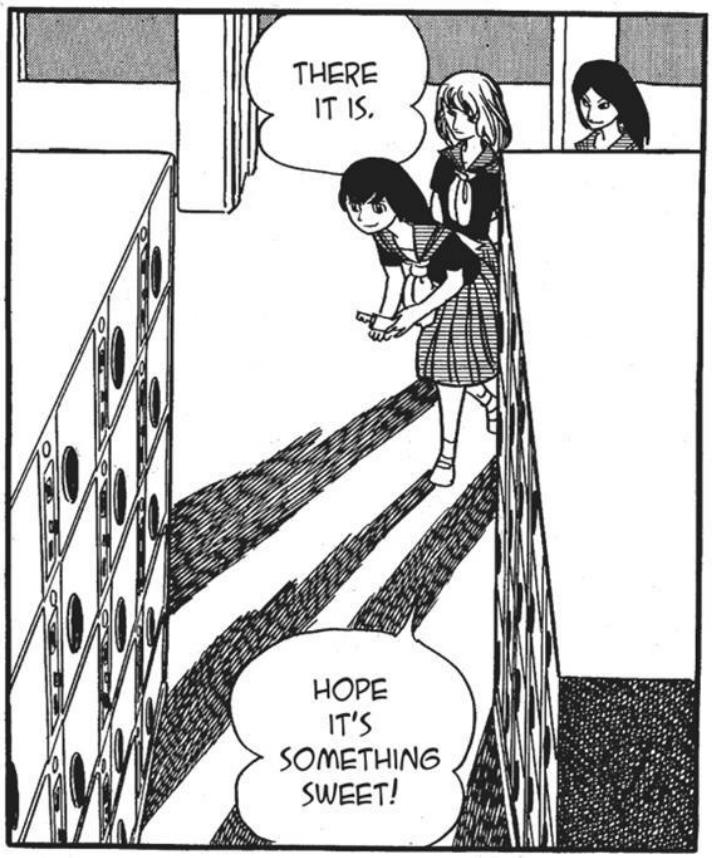

THAT'S DR. BLACK JACK. I'VE HEARD OF HIM. HE'S INTO SOME SHADY STUFF!
LOOK AT HIS CARD.
WHY'D YOU JUST LET THEM GO, MAGGIE?


HOW'D YA DO TODAY?
WE SCORED!

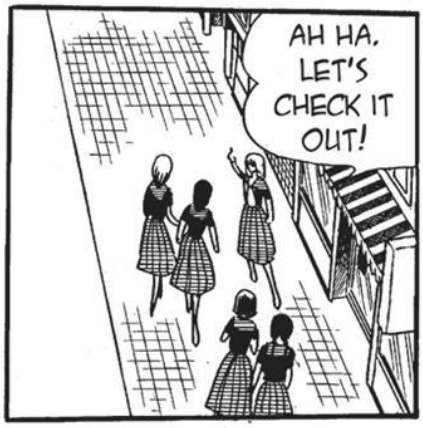

HE'S NOT LICENSED!
BETCHA HE'LL TRY TO PAY US OFF.

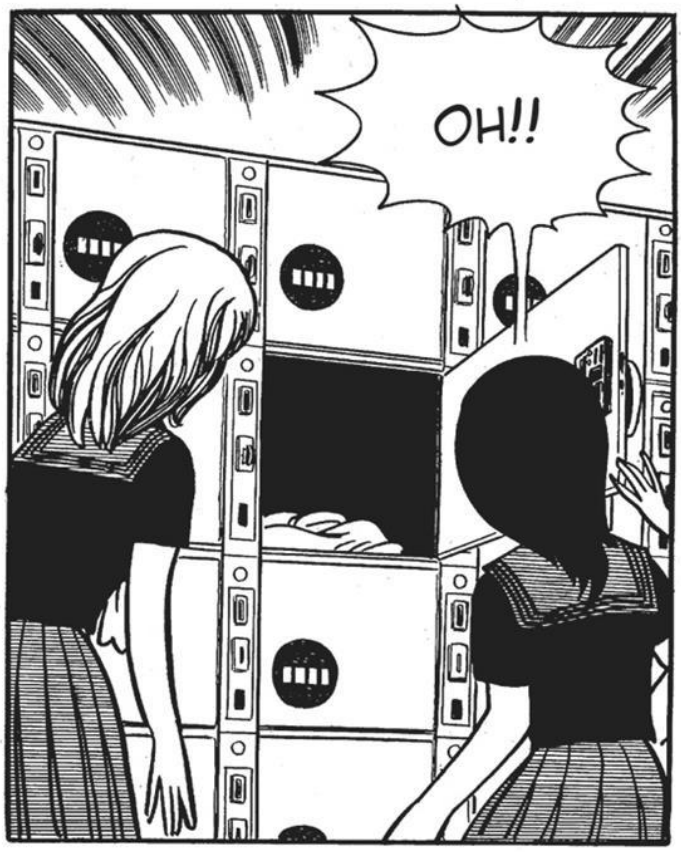

NO, IT'S SAFE.
THE POLICE WILL BE THERE, WAITING!
YOU TWITS! WHEN YOU GO STRUTTING IN...

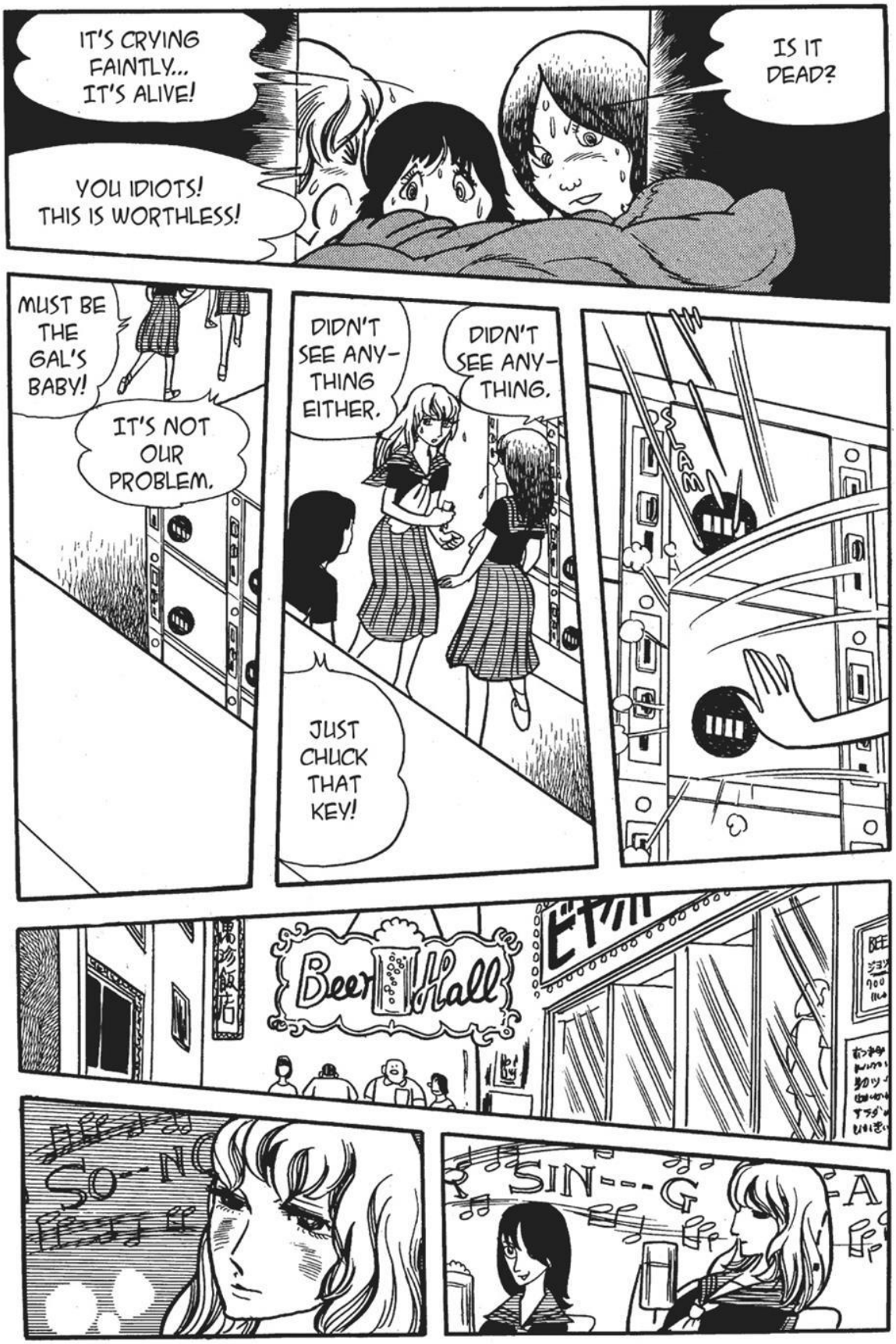

SHE COUGHED UP THIS LOCKER KEY.
WE NAILED SOME SECRETARY-TYPE. SHE LOOKED MAYBE AROUND 20 YEARS OLD.


THERE IT IS.
HOPE IT'S SOMETHING SWEET!

SHE WON'T BABBLE SO SOON.
WE HAD HER GOOD AND SCARED.


AH HA. LET'S CHECK IT OUT!


OH!!


IT'S CRYING FAINTLY... IT'S ALIVE!
YOU IDIOTS! THIS IS WORTHLESS!
IS IT DEAD?
MUST BE THE GAL'S BABY!
IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.
DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING EITHER.
DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
JUST CHUCK THAT KEY!
SLAM
Beer Hall
SO---NG
SIN---G

HEY, D'YOU THINK THAT BABY'S DEAD BY NOW?
DON'T TALK ABOUT THE BABY!!
WOOHOO
CLAP CLAP
MY PARENTS SURE DON'T GIVE A SHIT. HA HA.
WHO CARES WHETHER IT LIVES OR DIES?
...
...
TIME TO GO BACK TO MY SHITTY HOME... "HIC"

I KNEW IT.
THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ME...
YOUR FATHER IS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, MISS, AND YOUR MOTHER HAS A TELEVISION APPEARANCE.
WHERE ARE MOM AND DAD ?
...

KUH

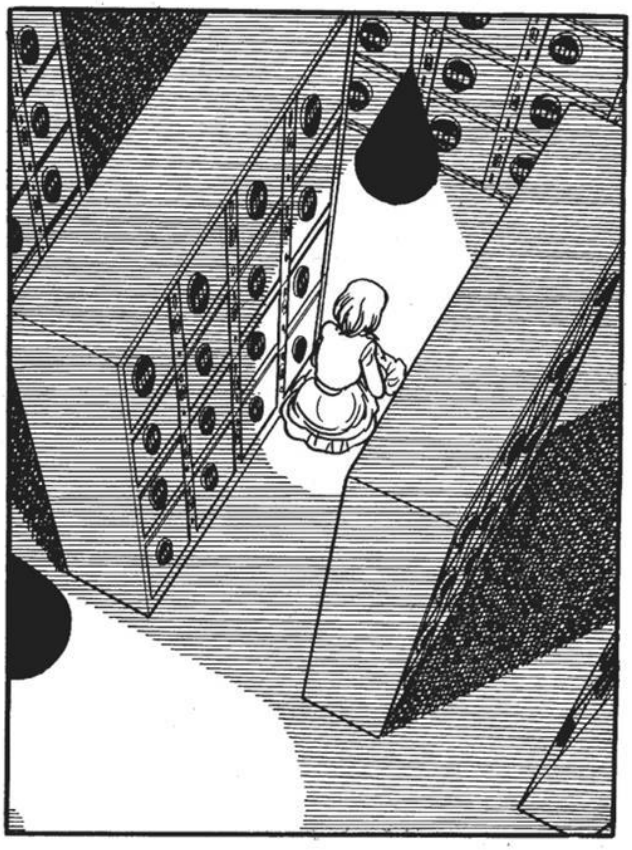
IT'S STILL ALIVE.

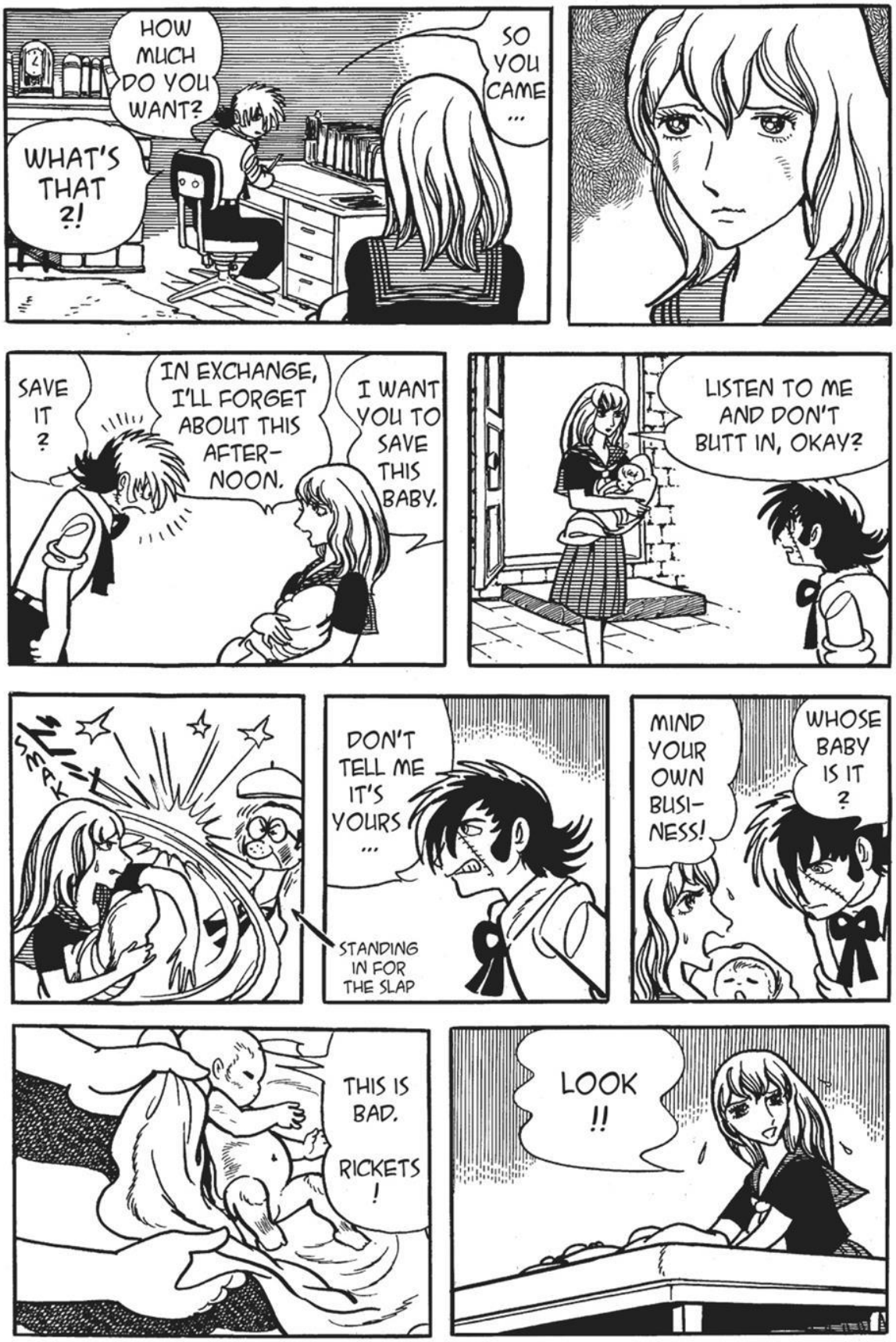
"SLURP"
"SLURP"

...

COME IN ...

KCHAK

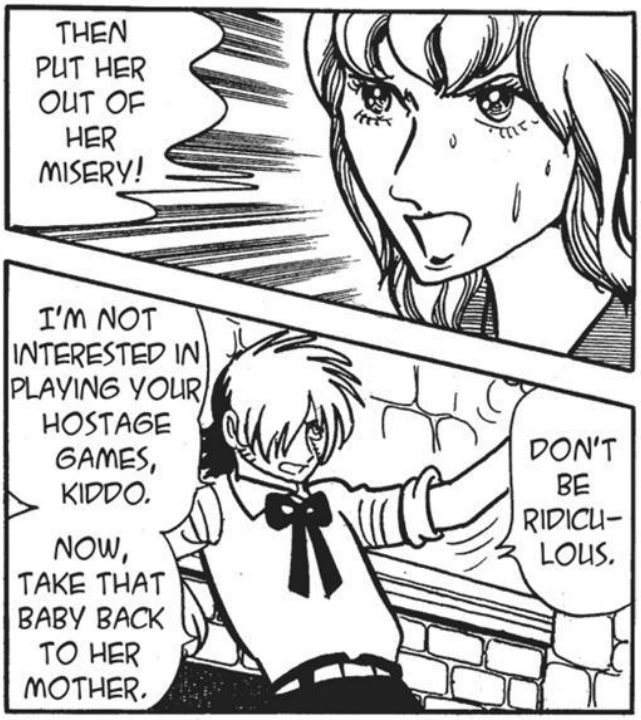



HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?
WHAT'S THAT ?!
SO YOU CAME ...
SAVE IT ?
IN EXCHANGE, I'LL FORGET ABOUT THIS AFTER-NOON.
I WANT YOU TO SAVE THIS BABY.
LISTEN TO ME AND DON'T BUTT IN, OKAY?
SLEAK
DON'T TELL ME IT'S YOURS ...
STANDING IN FOR THE SLAP
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!
WHOSE BABY IS IT ?
THIS IS BAD.
RICKETS !
LOOK !!

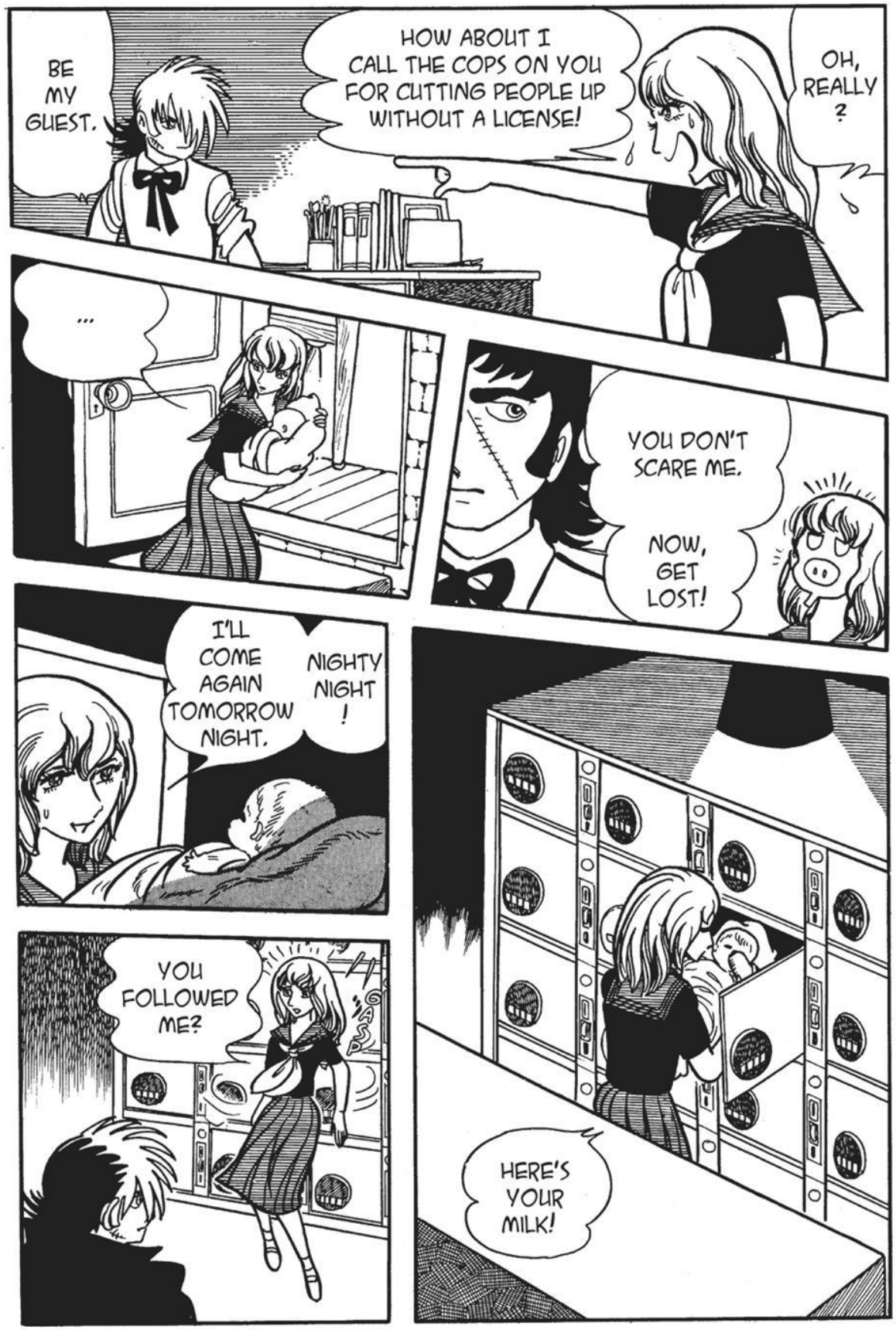
TAKE HER TO THE HOS-PITAL.
CAN'T YOU SAVE HER?

I'M PUTTING HER IN YOUR HANDS. MAKE HER WELL!
IF I COULD DO THAT, I'D NEVER HAVE COME HERE.

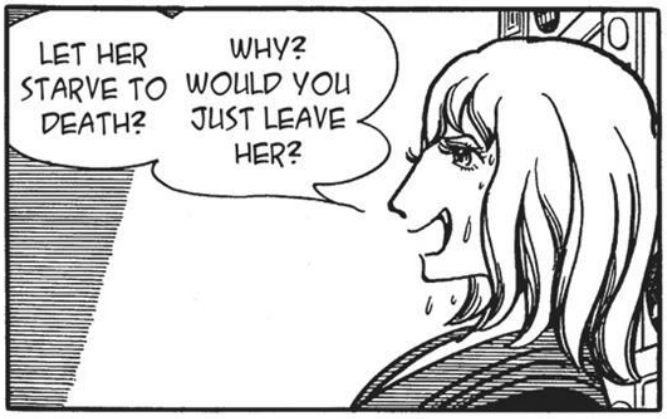
LOOK HOW HER LEGS ARE BENT. HER SPINE'S CROOKED, TOO. IT'S CALLED RICKETS...
LOOKS LIKE SHE HASN'T HAD ANY SUNLIGHT OR FRESH AIR OR PROPER NUTRITION SINCE BIRTH!

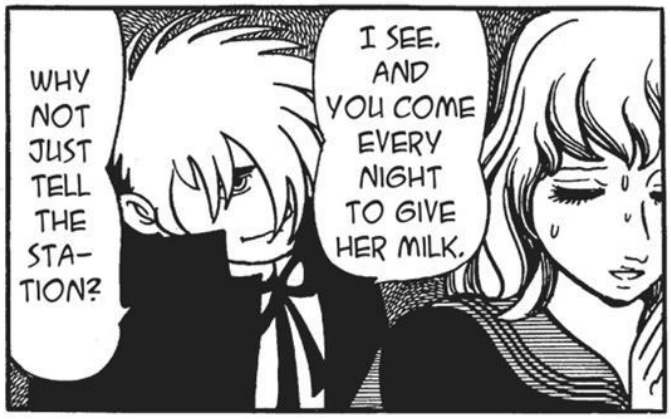

THEN PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PLAYING YOUR HOSTAGE GAMES, KIDDO.
NOW, TAKE THAT BABY BACK TO HER MOTHER.
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.

I DON'T HAVE THE FACILITIES HERE TO CARE FOR A BABY!

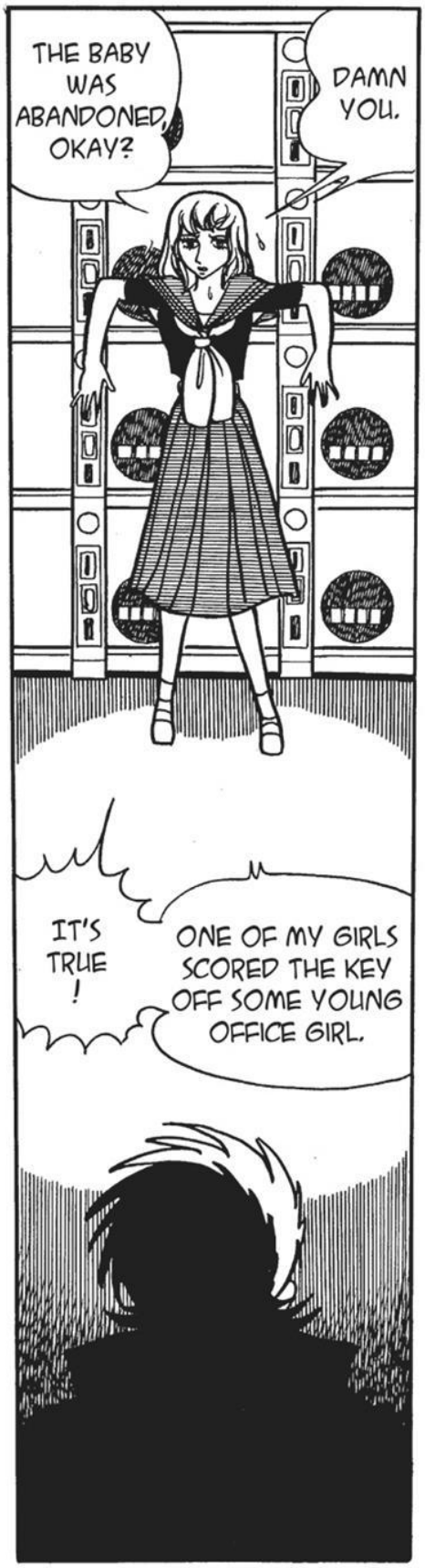

BE MY GUEST.
HOW ABOUT I CALL THE COPS ON YOU FOR CUTTING PEOPLE UP WITHOUT A LICENSE!
OH, REALLY ?
...
YOU DON'T SCARE ME.
NOW, GET LOST!
I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW NIGHT.
NIGHTY NIGHT !
YOU FOLLOWED ME?
HERE'S YOUR MILK!

WHO SAID YOU'RE LYING?
WHY DO YOU CARE FOR IT?


LET HER STARVE TO DEATH?
WHY? WOULD YOU JUST LEAVE HER?


WHY NOT JUST TELL THE STA-TION?
I SEE. AND YOU COME EVERY NIGHT TO GIVE HER MILK.

THEY'LL INVESTIGATE YOU.
DO I WANT TO?


THE BABY WAS ABANDONED, OKAY?
DAMN YOU.
IT'S TRUE!
ONE OF MY GIRLS SCORED THE KEY OFF SOME YOUNG OFFICE GIRL.

P-PLEASE! PLEASE SAVE HER.
I'LL... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY...
BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THE BABY WILL DIE.
THEY'LL FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR GANG, ABOUT THE THEFT AND EXTORTION.
SHE'S A NEWBORN. ONE LITTLE OPERATION WON'T CURE HER.
CAN'T SHE GET BETTER?
IT'LL TAKE A WHILE.
WITH A SUNLAMP, COD-LIVER OIL, AND PHOSPHORUS SUPPLEMENTS, SHE'LL HEAL OVER TIME...

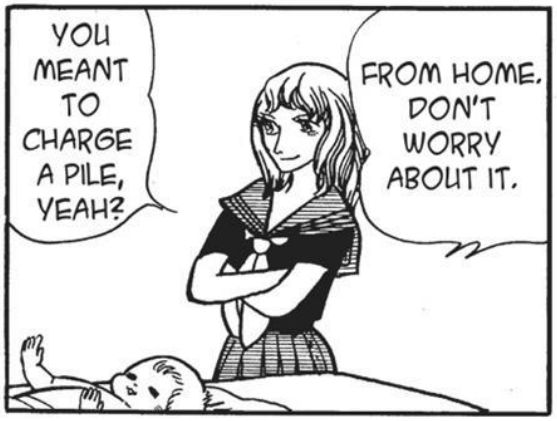
NOTE: SPELLED IN REVERSE HERE, MANGA ARTIST "TARO MINAMOTO" SKILLFULLY WOVE VISUAL GAGS INTO HIS OFTEN SERIOUS WORK.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
FOR THE SURGERY, AND HER TREATMENT.

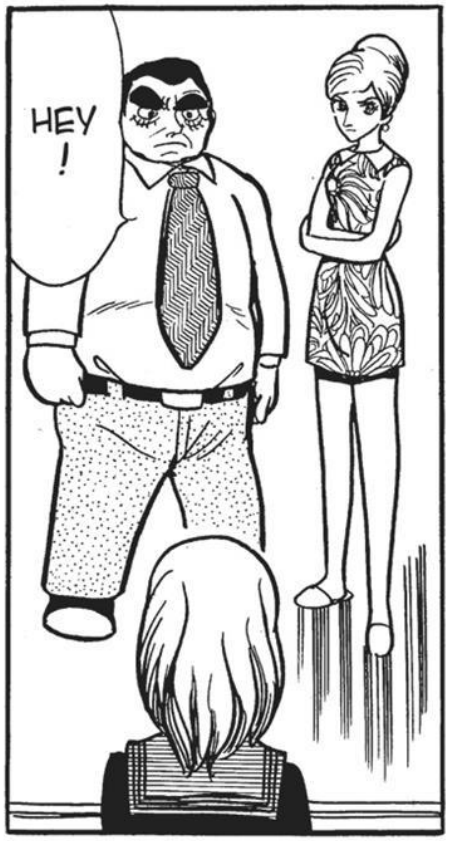
HERE ...

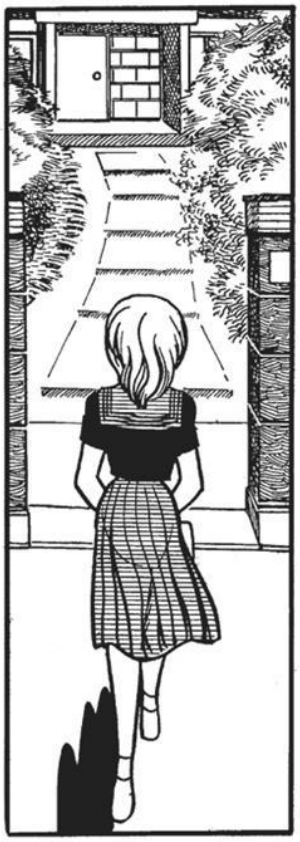
I'LL RAISE HER IN THAT LOCKER.

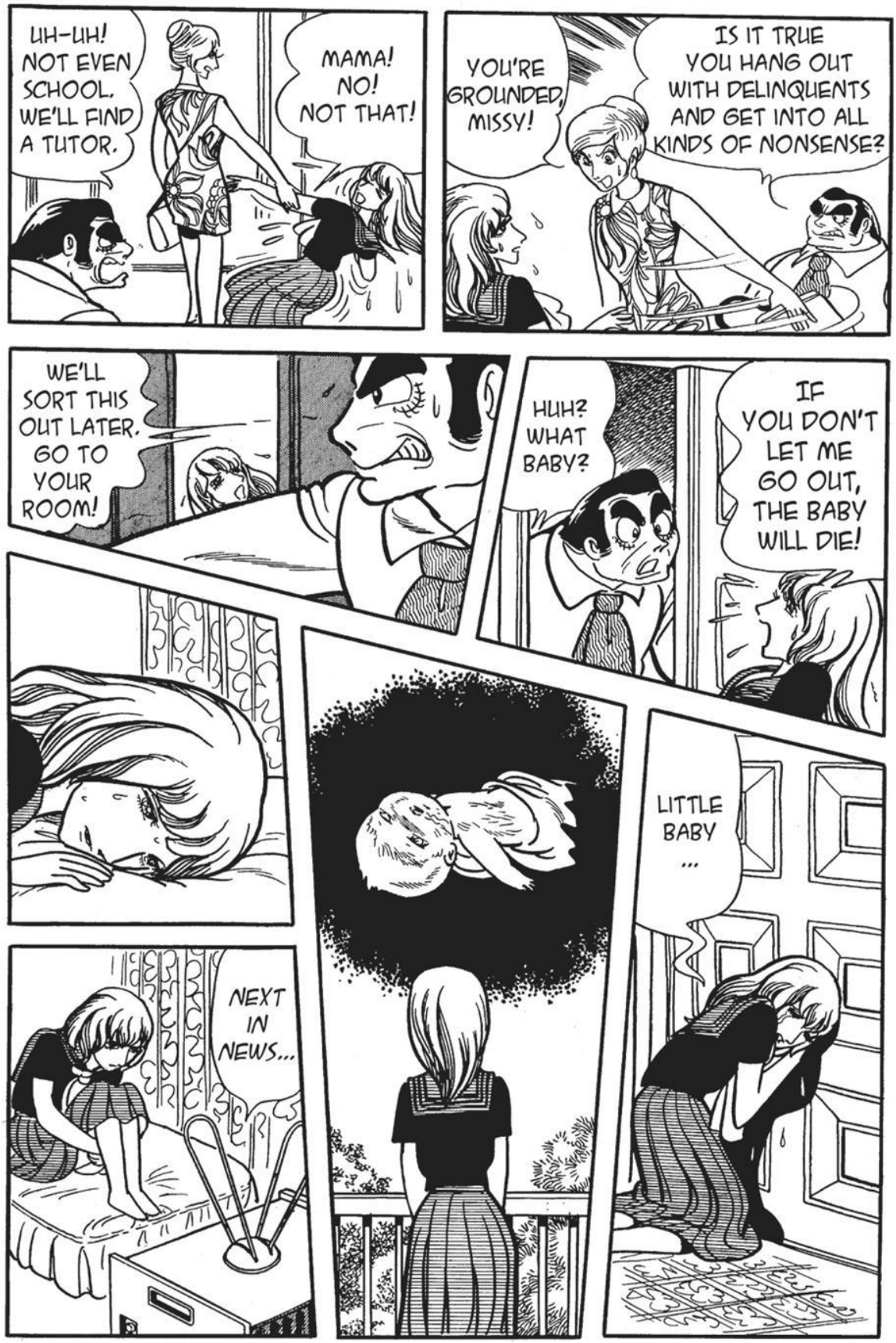
I DON'T ACCEPT STOLEN MONEY! TAKE IT BACK!

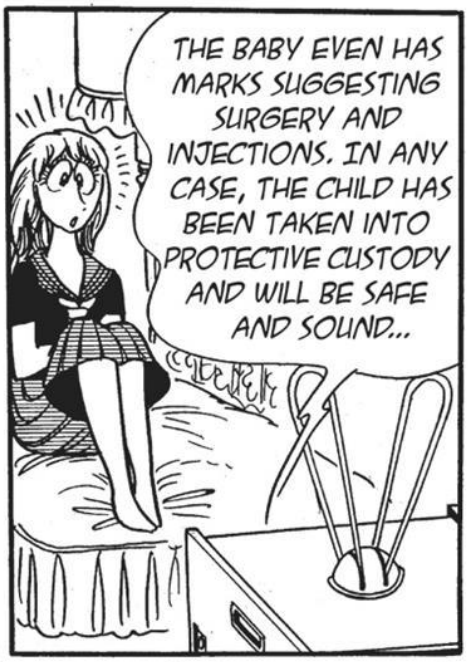

YOU MEANT TO CHARGE A PILE, YEAH?
FROM HOME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

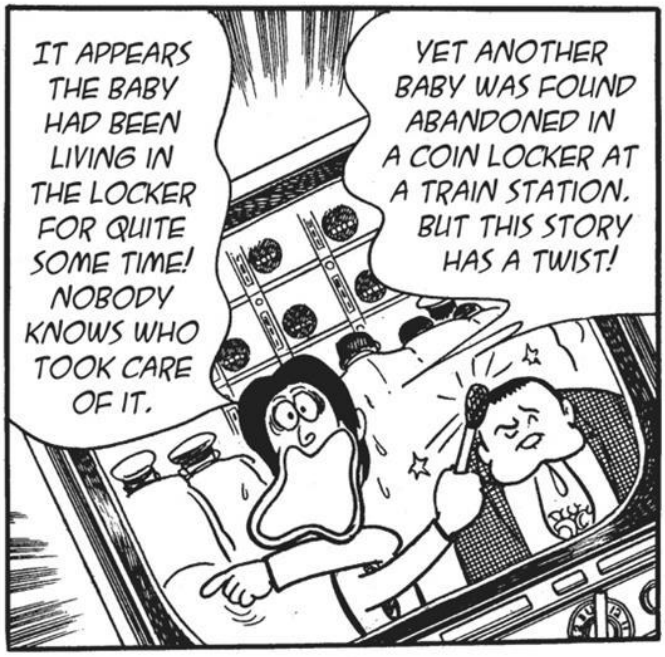
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING ?!
DID YOU OPEN THE SAFE AND TAKE MONEY?


HEY !



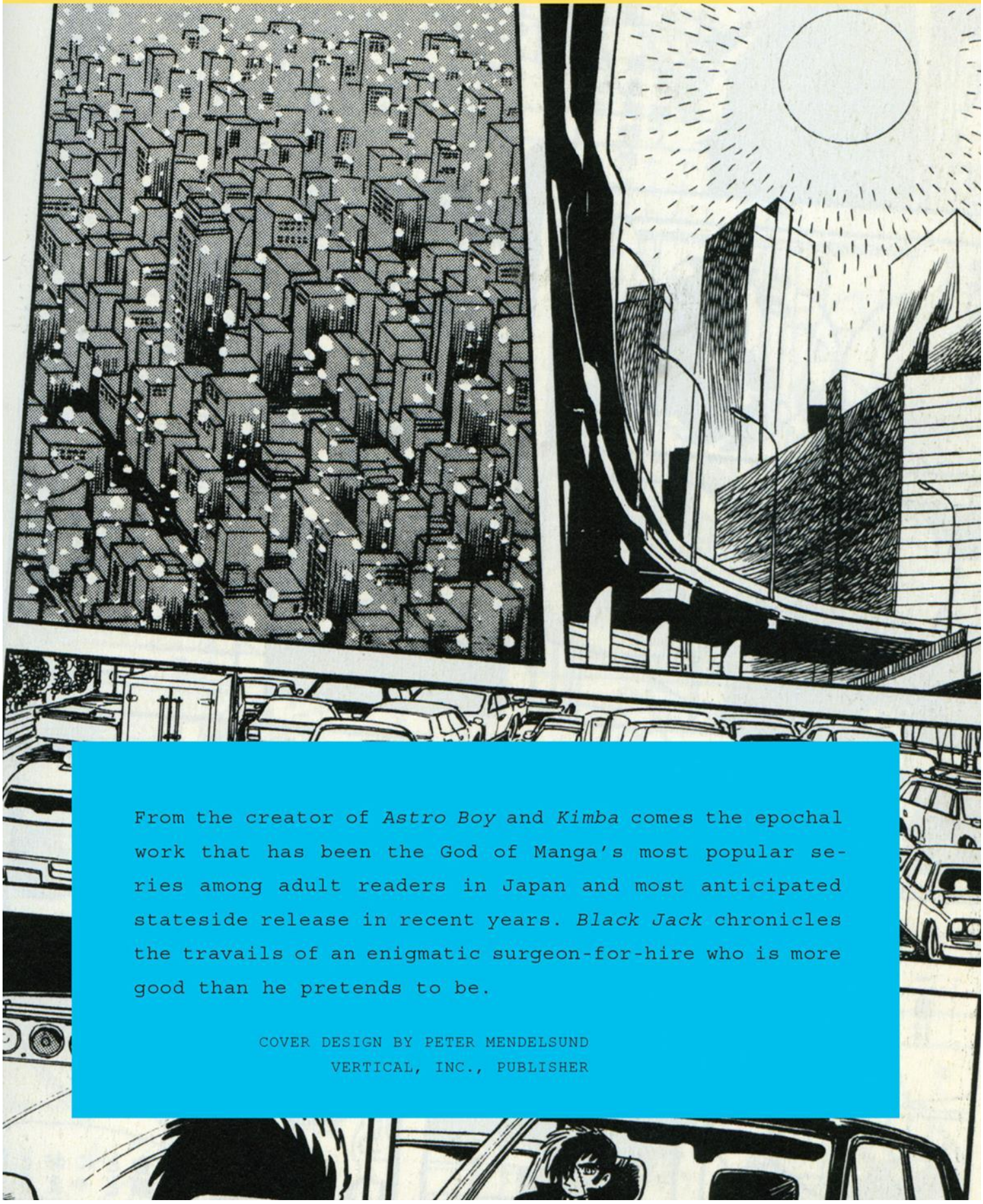

UH-UH! NOT EVEN SCHOOL. WE'LL FIND A TUTOR.
MAMA! NO! NOT THAT!
YOU'RE GROUNDED, MISSY!
IS IT TRUE YOU HANG OUT WITH DELINQUENTS AND GET INTO ALL KINDS OF NONSENSE?
WE'LL SORT THIS OUT LATER. GO TO YOUR ROOM!
HUH? WHAT BABY?
IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO OUT, THE BABY WILL DIE!
LITTLE BABY ...
NEXT IN NEWS...





NOTE: IN THE EARLY '70S, IN A BIZARRE EPIDEMIC OF INFANTICIDE, BABIES WERE LEFT IN COIN LOCKERS NATIONWIDE IN JAPAN.

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //



From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Kimba* comes the epochal work that has been the God of Manga's most popular series among adult readers in Japan and most anticipated stateside release in recent years. *Black Jack* chronicles the travails of an enigmatic surgeon-for-hire who is more good than he pretends to be.

COVER DESIGN BY PETER MENDELSUND
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